

# THE TIMES

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40p

Tanks threaten republic's forces

## President may quit over Croatia war

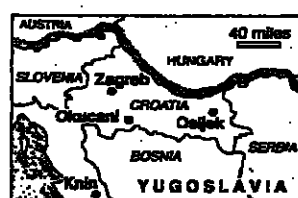
FROM ROBERT SEELEY IN ZAGREB

THE Yugoslav president threatened to resign last night as the fierce fighting in Croatia surged relentlessly towards full-scale war.

Stipe Mesic accused Serbia of instigating the violence and gave a warning that Croatia would soon go on the offensive, finally shattering the two-week-old ceasefire that is dead in all but name. He threatened to resign if the truce did not succeed.

Mr Mesic, a Croat, was speaking in Zagreb as the predominantly Serb national forces took up combat positions near Okucani, where more than a dozen people were reported killed in battles between Serbs and Croats over the weekend. The army said that it was trying to prevent further fighting by setting up a buffer zone, but Croatian authorities insisted that the federal troops were helping Serb guerrillas.

An army column entered Okucani on Saturday, while another was blocked by Croatian forces that damaged a key bridge across the Sava river from the neighbouring



republic, Bosnia-Herzegovina. That column managed to cross the river on pontoon bridges early yesterday and established a bridgehead on the northern shore of the Sava. Croatian authorities said the tanks had fired on republican positions around Okucani, although there was a lull in the fighting for most of the day.

Air force jets were also accused of bombing a police station in Nova Gradiška nearby. Federal aircraft were said to have strafed the area on Saturday night, fueling Croatian suspicions that they were helping the Serb guerrillas who are seeking autonomy for the farming region of western Slavonia.

The eight-man federal presidency held an emergency meeting late on Saturday and called for an end to the violence around Okucani. They also agreed to send 56 observers to monitor events in Croatia. The teams will be based in Karlovac and Petrinja in the centre of the republic, Gospić in the west and Ozijek, some of the most bitter fighting of recent weeks, in the east.

The presidency will meet again tomorrow for what might well be the last chance to prevent all-out conflict. Mr Mesic said yesterday: "There is very little time to stop the slaughter in Croatia."

He insisted that Serbia, the biggest Yugoslav republic, was behind the violence. "It is obvious that the aggressive war is being directed from Belgrade," he said. "This is a fight for Croatian territory under the excuse of having all Serbs in one state. This is pure aggression and my further role in the presidency legitimises this dirty war in Croatia. I think that very soon I will have to decide whether to stay on in the presidency." Mr Mesic is

commander in chief of the federal forces, but the army has largely ignored him in that role.

As the Croatian defence ministry said that federal soldiers, army reservists and armed civilians were crossing from Bosnia into Croatia behind the federal tanks, Mr Mesic indicated that there were disagreements in the military about the deployment of soldiers in Okucani. He quoted Admiral Stane Brovet, a federal deputy defence minister, as saying there had been no need for the army to enter the town, and added that a commission would try to establish who was responsible for the order.

Okucani, a mainly Serbian-inhabited town of some five thousand people, is at one of Yugoslavia's most important intersections. By establishing themselves there, the rebels could virtually cut off Slavonia from the rest of Croatia.

Yesterday, as army units reinforced positions on roads leading to Okucani, at least 200 heavily-armed Croatian national guardsmen sealed off the town and threatened to repel any attack. Ivan Vekic, the Croatian interior minister, declared on Zagreb television: "I want to say clearly and loudly: I am not going to give up Okucani."

Meanwhile, clashes continued elsewhere in the republic yesterday. Zagreb radio said one policeman had been killed, one wounded and two Croatian national guardsmen taken prisoner in an attack overnight on a patrol near Vukovar in eastern Croatia.

At his press conference, Mr Mesic read a message from Serb Krajina rebels in the Koin district in the south, threatening to destroy a police station unless it was evacuated within 24 hours. "If the police station is not withdrawn from the village, we shall attack with our own forces when it suits us," the message said. "We advise the population to seek shelter in safe places."

Refugee existence, page 8  
Sarajevo waits, page 12

## Iran steps up efforts to win hostage deal

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAN at the weekend stepped up its behind-the-scenes diplomacy aimed at ending the hostage saga by hosting visits to Tehran by the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah organisation and a Swiss envoy acting on behalf of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary general.

Moscow also sent envoys to the Middle East in a bid to bring Soviet views to bear. Diplomats said Tehran's aim was to put pressure on Israel to break the "impasse by freeing some Shia prisoners."

President George Bush said he remained optimistic about prospects for freeing Western hostages in Lebanon. However, Israeli hostage negotiators said they did not expect an immediate breakthrough.

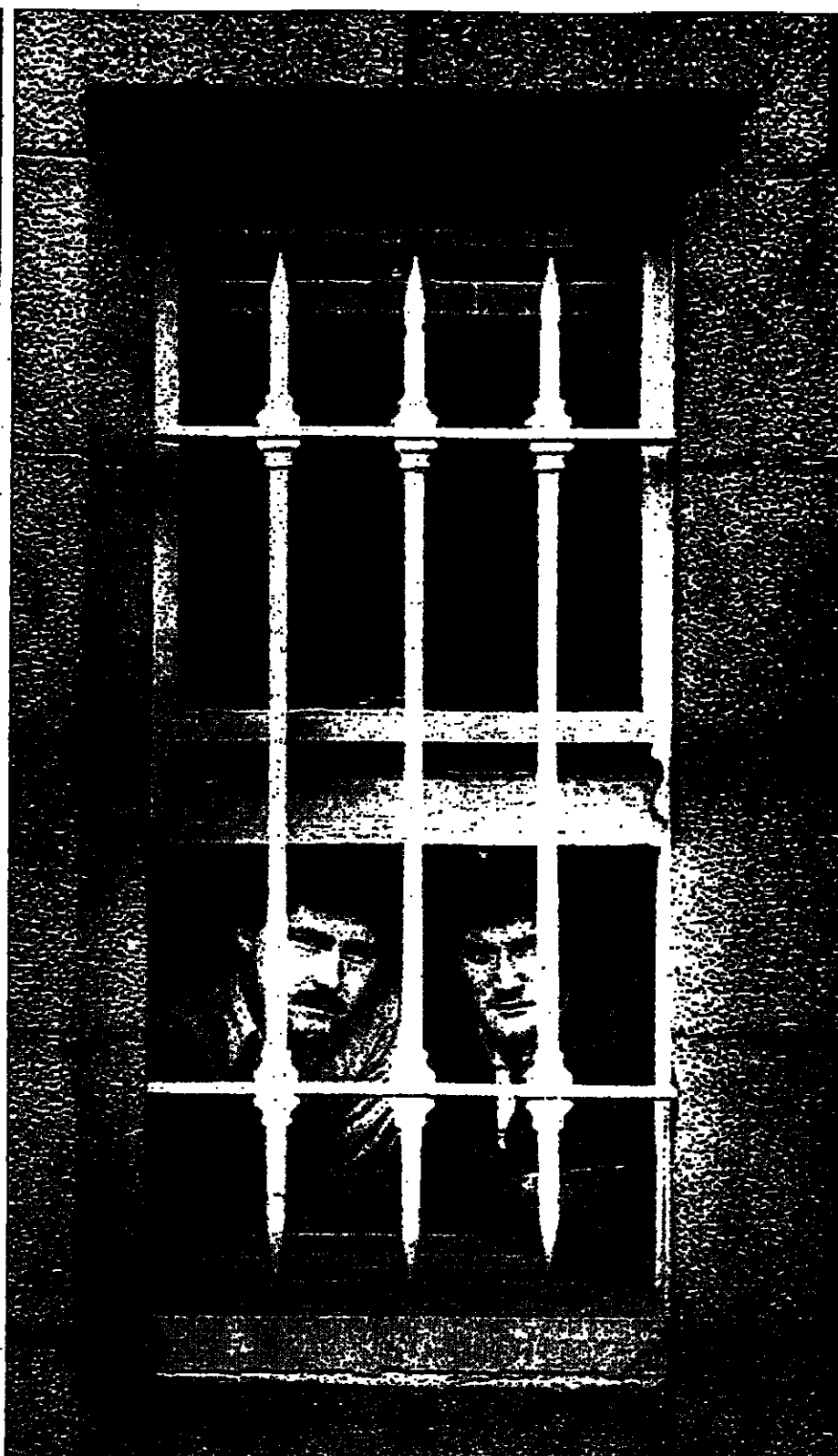
Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, urged visiting Euro MPs to

put pressure on Israel. "There is now a positive trend under way for the freedom of the hostages," he said.

On Saturday Abbas Musawi, the Hezbollah leader, held talks in Tehran with Mr Velayati. Tehran radio said they discussed the "latest developments in the region". Klaus Jacoby, the Swiss deputy foreign minister acting on behalf of Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, was also in Tehran.

Moscow's veteran Middle East expert, Karen Brutsants, at the weekend visited Damascus where he handed over a personal letter from President Gorbachev to President Assad, while the president of the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, held talks with Iranian leaders in Tehran.

German formula, page 9



Safe haven: Llan Kearnas, left, and David Madigan, Roman Catholics from Newry, Co Down, peering from a chapel window in the town's cathedral yesterday. They spent their second night in the building last night to try to escape an IRA death threat for alleged criminal behaviour (Edward Gorman writes). They said they would stay as long as the threat remained. A friend said: "They are not coming out because the

most ruthless paramilitary gang in Western Europe is ready to kill them." Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, said: "I would not allow the church to be used for any political purpose or political demonstration. But when it is a question of a stand for human life, for the defence of human beings who might otherwise have no other defence, then that is a Christian concern."

## Lloyd's prepared for loss of quarter of its names

By JONATHAN PRYNN

LLOYD'S of London is braced to lose a quarter of its membership this year with underwriters, known as names, leaving the insurance market in droves after suffering heavy losses.

Names have until August 31 to notify their agents whether they wish to continue underwriting in 1992. Although hard figures on resignations will not be available until late September, indications are that agents are seeing between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of their clients opting to pull out.

Last month, David Colledge, the chairman of Lloyd's, said that he expected about 5,000 names to resign this year. However, market sources suggest that that is likely to be an underestimate, with the actual figure likely to be between 6,000 and 7,000.

Such a drop would be the biggest ever in a single year, and would return membership to the level of about 20,000 that was seen in the early Eighties.

Last year, 2,200 members left Lloyd's, reducing the number of names to its current level of 26,568. Membership reached a peak in 1988 at 32,400. Only a few new names

are expected to be signing up for 1992.

Mark Brockbank, group managing underwriter of Hayter Brockbank, the combined agency, said: "It is inevitable that you will see a lot of resignations at the end of the year." Many would be unable to meet the new wealth requirement that comes into effect for all names at the end of the year, he said. Plummeting asset values and redundancies will make it difficult for many names to raise the £250,000 minimum.

The ranks of the resigning names will be dominated by the smaller investors who entered the market during the rapid expansion of the mid-

and late-Eighties. Many have experienced nothing but losses since becoming Lloyd's members at the trough of the insurance cycle. Tom Benyon, chairman of the Association of Names, said: "They are leaving because they are fed up and they can't take it any more. They are leaving on grounds of stress."

In July, Lloyd's announced a £510 million loss for 1988, and already many names are receiving heavy cash calls for 1989. The departures will affect Lloyd's capacity to undertake business. Estimates of next year's capacity vary widely, but a fall of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent to

Continued on page 18, col 4

## Summer turns frosty

GARDENERS in the South-East faced an unseasonal ground frost last night and the London Weather Centre has warned that there could be more tonight, particularly in areas with sandy soils (Tim Miles writes).

A spokesman said that ground frosts were fairly unusual at this time of year.

"Because we have had reasonably good temperatures during the day, any tender plants would be particularly at risk," he said.

Ground temperatures were most likely to fall below freezing, he added, in areas with sandy soil, which lost the day's heat more quickly than denser soils.

## Rubber from washer caused Lauda disaster

After months of research experts believe they now know what caused a jet to crash in Thailand on May 27, killing 223 people. Harvey Elliott reports

A piece of rubber from a damaged washer became lodged in a hydraulic pipe and triggered, it is now believed, the chain of events which led to the crash of a Lauda Air Boeing 767 jet in which 223 people died.

After months of exhaustive tests, Boeing engineers managed to recreate the conditions which could have led to the crash and immediately informed American safety officials. They then ordered airlines to stop using reverse thrust on 767s until further notice.

The ruling affects 168 767s around the world and means that the jets will not be able to use reverse thrust on either take-off or landing until the authorities are convinced that a solution to the problem has been found.

The order, which comes into force immediately, has, however, angered British



Airways and Rolls-Royce who claim that their aircraft have a completely different system from that on the Lauda jet which crashed in Thailand on May 27.

As pilots of 767s were yesterday issued with a new set of procedures for take-off and landing, senior officials from the two British companies were preparing a detailed presentation to safety authorities on both sides of the Atlantic in an effort to persuade them to lift the ban on the use of thrust reversers from their aircraft.

For months Boeing engineers had been baffled by the crash which investigators at the scene rapidly established was almost certainly caused by the sudden deployment of the thrust reversers in flight. Repeated attempts to recreate the conditions which led to the reverser suddenly deploying failed and investigators were beginning to believe that such an incident was, in fact, "impossible".

Then, late last week, yet another test was conducted at the Boeing headquarters in Seattle in which an "O" ring seal was deliberately broken to see what would happen. To their astonish-

ment the engineers saw sections of rubber sucked into the pipe containing hydraulic fluid which led to an electrically operated solenoid valve controlling the thrust reverser. As it lodged in the pipe the flow of fluid was blocked and the valve, which should only have opened on the direct instructions of the pilot, reversed itself, allowing hydraulic fluid to activate the thrust reverser.

Investigators had been hampered by the disappearance from the remote jungle crash site of many vital pieces of equipment, including the valve which is now thought to have caused the trouble. Looters descended on the scene before experts were able to reach it and Boeing have now issued a reward for the return of any missing parts.

Within hours of the discovery of the probable cause of the crash, the Federal Aviation Administration had issued an Airworthiness Directive - a mandatory order which all American-registered aircraft must follow and which was immediately endorsed by the British Civil Aviation Authority.

British Airways was told to block off its thrust reversers on its 13 Boeing 767s and to issue crews with new manuals. Thrust reversers are of particular importance if an engine fails on take-off. If the aircraft is at maximum weight and under full power it must be able to stop even if the runway is wet or icy and if an engine fails at the critical speed just before take-off.

Although they are used on landing they have only a marginal effect on performance and their main value is to avoid heavy use of the aircraft's brakes.

BA and other airlines will now have to rely on air and wheel brakes alone, putting them under increased strain and leading to the additional cost of replacing them more frequently.

All BA's 767s are, however, powered by Rolls-Royce engines - which have no "O" ring seals - rather than the engines which caused the crash. Continued on page 18, col 5

## RETAKING A-LEVELS?

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## Wall Street celebrates downfall of a king

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

THE *Schadenfreude* flowed all the way from Manhattan to the weekend retreats of Long Island yesterday as New York's rich and poor relished the downfall of John H. Gutfreund, the financier whose high-handed and extravagant ways became a byword for the excesses of New York's social world in the 1980s.

"He got his, and there is joy on Wall Street," the *New York Post* shouted on its front page after Mr Gutfreund announced that he would resign as chairman of Salomon Brothers Inc, the firm which he moulded in the 1980s into the top bond-trading house in the city. The company has admitted breaking rules governing the auction of Treasury securities. The board last night accepted the resignation of Mr Gutfreund, aged 61, who was once proclaimed the "King

of Wall Street" by *Business Week* magazine, as well as that of Thomas Starnes, its president.

Last night, the government first suspended Salomon's right to participate in government bond, note and bill auctions, but then lifted the suspension as four federal investigations continued. The firm's transgressions have nothing of the dramatic skulduggery of the great Eighties' felons such as Ivan Boesky and Michael Milken, the junk bond emperor, or the soap opera quality of Donald Trump's travails.

The undisputed glee springs this time from resentment over Mr Gutfreund's aggressive personal style and the opulent swath that he cut with his wife Susan in Manhattan's social world of the 1980s. The Gutfreunds, who threw some of the most lavish parties in recent history, are widely assumed to have furnished the

model for Tom Wolfe's two social-climbing characters Leon and Inez Bavardage in *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.

The press has dwelt at length on the epic shopping habits of Mrs Gutfreund, a former airline stewardess and beauty queen two decades younger than her husband, whom she married in 1981. There was, for example, the nasty row with the neighbours when she had a two-storey Christmas tree hoisted 24 floors into their East Side duplex. They moved after that into a multi-million dollar apartment on Fifth Avenue reported by admiring magazines to be a hymn to the interior decorator's art.

While Wall Street was laying off thousands of former masters of the universe in 1988, Mrs Gutfreund was

Continued on page 18, col 1  
Salomon barred, page 19



Gutfreund: opulent style alienated New Yorkers

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# Refugees from a hostile town pose threat to IRA's power



Daly: aiding defenceless is a Christian concern

THE Provisional IRA, which regards itself as the legitimate source of law and order in the "occupied territory" of Northern Ireland, is facing what could turn out to be a significant test of its authority.

Despite relatively little active support in the province, one reason why the IRA has been able to maintain its campaign for 21 years has been its ruthless refusal to compromise on methods or beliefs. Leaders of the IRA learnt long ago that if people start to believe that they can ignore its wishes, it will become unable to organise operations against the security forces and it would lose the respect of supporters.

In Newry, two men are daring to challenge that approach, and, by

taking sanctuary from a Provisional death threat in the town's cathedral, are in effect daring the IRA to kill them on holy ground.

Yesterday, Liam Kearns, aged 23, and David Madigan, 19, who sought the sanctuary of the cathedral sacristy on Saturday, said that they will not leave until the death threat against them is publicly lifted. They are among six people named by the IRA last week for allegedly engaging in criminal activity in Newry who were given until Saturday to get out of Ireland or be killed. So far, three have left and the case of a fourth who is shortly to get married, was reportedly "under review".

Mr Kearns and Mr Madigan, from Newry's republican Drum-

**Fugitives in a cathedral are defying Irish paramilitary might, but a town sick of crime has little sympathy, Edward Gorman writes**

lane estate, say they are innocent and hopeful that the IRA will back down. However, they looked scared as they chatted to reporters, peering through the window.

Their families have enlisted the support of three cross-community groups that oppose violence in Northern Ireland, including New Consensus, which picks Sinn Féin and the Ulster Defence Association. Michael Nugent, chairman of New Consensus, said: "What we are doing is hoping that regardless of how low people have

sunk here, they won't cross the threshold of going into church property and murdering people."

Mr Nugent said: "The IRA have no right to tell people whether they can or can't stay in their own city."

Essentially the two lads are hostages - hostages in their own city being held captive by people who are claiming to defend them.

without reason and believe that they should get out of town. Worshippers leaving the cathedral made comments such as "There's no smoke without fire" and "They wouldn't just pick on anybody," both of which suggest a level of respect for the IRA among ordinary Roman Catholics not often conveyed in the media.

One teenage girl said: "They are not safe, not really safe. If the IRA's after them, they'll get them one way or another."

A taxi driver articulated the frustration with crime in Newry that leaves few with sympathy for the "hostages" in the cathedral. "They brought it on themselves," he said. "Three per cent of the population is fighting to keep

them. Ninety-seven per cent want rid of them. It speaks for itself."

David Madigan's mother, Sheila, said that he would not come out until the IRA broadcast worldwide that the threat was lifted. "These men are innocent," she said. "What jury or court have these people come in front of?"

Cardinal Cahill Daly, Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, said: "I would not allow the church to be used for any political purpose or political demonstration. But when it is a question of a stand for human life, for the defence of human beings who might otherwise have no other defence, then that is a Christian concern."

Fugitives in cathedral, page 1

## Heseltine 'linear city' vision

# Tory and Labour MPs attack east Thames expansion

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AMBITIOUS proposals by Michael Heseltine for the redevelopment of both banks of the river Thames east of London were yesterday criticised by Tory and Labour MPs.

The environment secretary sent the outline of his idea for the creation of a "linear city" development, running 30 miles east of Bow and Bermondsey, to 10 Downing Street last month.

Mr Heseltine is pressing the prime minister to give serious thought to the concept of developing a series of new communities as a way of regenerating vast tracts of east London, Essex and North Kent and relieving the pressure for development in the green belt of Tory heartlands west and south of London.

He would like to secure cabinet backing for his idea in time for its inclusion in his speech to the Conservative party conference in October. Mr Heseltine and his closest

aides have begun to consider a number of ideas for inclusion in the speech which, following the role he played in the toppling of Margaret Thatcher, will be one of the most important since his political comeback and a test of his popularity among the party's rank and file.

During the next four months he is preparing to release new regional planning guidance for the South-East which will set the development framework within which counties and districts must work. Mr Heseltine's close associates say he is anxious for full discussion of developing what planners call the east Thames corridor including up to 20 "mini towns" served by new roads and rail lines.

The regeneration proposals draw heavily on ideas outlined by Professor Peter Hall, the geographer and town planner, at a Serplan conference five months ago. Professor Hall is

also a part-time adviser to the environment secretary.

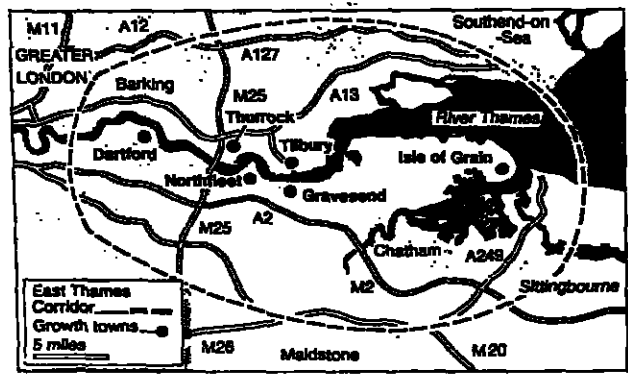
Mr Heseltine's scheme would need the coordination of existing development plans by up to 20 local authorities. He believes the private sector would play a leading role in the project though public funding would be needed for the road and rail network.

Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary and MP for Dagenham, said: "It strikes me as another piece of Heseltine gimmickry - a grandiose gesture which will grab the headlines and then run into the sand."

The Labour MP Nigel Spearing, whose Newham South constituency includes Docklands, said any new town should not be run by another urban development corporation. Tory MPs also reacted coolly to the idea, fearing that remaining green belt land alongside the Thames would disappear and saying the area was already too congested. They were also angered by Mr Heseltine's failure to consult them about his ideas.

Sir Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, said: "If Mr Heseltine has grand plans to build a huge new housing development along the Thames the least he should do is to consult MPs who represent the areas concerned. The plan appears to be a recipe for congestion and chaos."

Diary, page 12



## Cautious welcome from Tory councils

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE councillors in Essex and Kent gave a cautious welcome to the Heseltine plan.

Tony Hart, Tory leader of Kent county council, said: "This has been something that we have been thinking about for a long time but it has always needed support at the highest level."

"But there will have to be investment in the infrastructure like roads and railways and we need jobs to go with the new houses. There is no point in trying to funnel more people into central London from Kent."

He said that in particular the A2/M2 route would need to be upgraded as the main artery for the new development area and the link with Europe through the Channel ports.

Bill Dixon-Smith, the immediate past chairman of Essex county council and policy chairman of the Association of County Councils, said the proposal could be "extremely interesting". But there was "a question mark over whether there was a need for a whole new mechanism to get co-ordinated development in this area rather than doing so through the existing local authorities."

The proposal offered an excellent opportunity to guarantee government funding for improvements in road and rail links. As well as urgent improvements to the line from Southend to Fenchurch Street, Mr Dixon-Smith said further work was needed on the A13 and the A127/A12 routes into London. The development might also require the creation of a third Thames crossing.

## Grand plan to end housing shortage

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's grand design for the eastern corridor city development is his answer to the underlying demand for homes in the South-East. It would complete the work he started when he launched the London Docklands Development Corporation in 1981 to regenerate the area.

Both in and out of office in the 1980s he opposed large schemes for the South-East put forward by developers, including Consortium Developments, a grouping of the country's largest house builders. He argued that if the house builders had their way the south of the country would end up being concreted over.

Consortium Development's first proposed scheme at Tillingham Hall on green belt land in Essex was rejected by the government as was its next scheme at Foxley Wood in Hampshire. Continued failure to gain approval for any of its projects led to the consortium's disbandment earlier this year.

The House Builders' Federation has tried in recent years to persuade the government not only of the need for houses in the South-East but also of the practicability of providing them.

While this view was opposed by Serplan, the South-East region's planning conference, as well as the Tory heartlands in the Home Counties that feared an invasion and eventually spawned the Nimby (not in my back yard) movement, Serplan did recognise the underuse of large areas east of London and produced discussion documents urging action to regenerate them.

In a speech to an urban planning conference in London in March Mr Heseltine, the environment secretary, again said that he would not relax green belt restrictions on development

but he did float the concept of comprehensive development east of London.

He has the Docklands development on the western edge of the proposed area as his model, with the Royal Docks yet to be developed. There are important lessons to be learnt from the ten years of the London Docklands Development Corporation, the most important of which is that the roads and communications infrastructure must be in place before people will come and live or work there.

At least in the Royal Docks, the roads are already in place. For the eastern corridor proposal to succeed an effective communications network must not only be promised but built, which adds pressure to the campaign to make Stratford in east London the main terminal for the Channel Tunnel rail link instead of King's Cross.

Developers have been looking east of London for some time with a view to opening up the area. One scheme in the pipeline is a large retail and leisure development by Blue Circle Industries at Blue Water Park, between Gravesend and Dartford.

In a recent trial among existing members, an x-ray transparency of Neom, a three-year-old shot in the head during the war in Cambodia, earned nearly twice as much for Red Cross as did a print of the x-ray.

The response convinced the charity that only the stark image of the x-ray should be used for one of its biggest ever mailshots, which it hopes will be as successful as a public appeal during the Gulf war: that raised about £600,000.

THE Conservatives will today launch a counter-offensive against Labour aimed at shifting attention to what they claim are the likely effects on the job market of a number of opposition policies.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, will lead the attack as the latest opinion poll showed the Tories running neck and neck with Labour.

As Labour continued to criticise the government's economic record, Norman Lamont, the chancellor, yesterday reiterated his forecast that recovery would begin in the second half of the year.

Mr Howard is expected to claim that key opposition policies could damage industrial and employment prospects. He is likely to highlight Labour's support for a minimum wage and its energy policies which he claims would increase industry's costs. The employment secretary will argue that the opposition's endorsement of the EC's social charter would hit jobs and the efficiency of the labour market.

The counter-offensive opens as a Harris poll published in the Observer showed Labour down one point on 41 per cent, the Conservatives up a point at 40 per cent, the Liberal Democrats unchanged on 14 per cent, Greens up one

on 3 per cent and nationalists on two per cent. The percentages in the survey mean that the two main parties are running neck-and-neck.

The poll, which compares with ICM findings in the Guardian last week giving Labour a nine-point lead over the Tories, was taken before the announcement of a rise in unemployment to the highest rate for three years and of a fall in inflation to a three-year low.

In the 13 polls since Margaret Thatcher and Edward Heath clashed over Europe, only two have had the Tories as high as 40 per cent. Every poll has put the Tories at 38 per cent, plus or minus three points and in 12 of the

13 polls, Labour has been on 43 per cent, plus or minus three points.

Yesterday Labour party sources pointed to the solidity of their support at more than 40 per cent while ministers and Tory party strategists suggested that the opposition had failed to convince the electorate that Labour could run the economy any better.

They said that given the recession, mortgage repossessions, and opposition attacks on ministerial competence, Labour's lead should have been much greater.

While ministers are braced for poor news when long-term unemployment figures are announced tomorrow, Norman Lamont yesterday offered little hope of further large cuts in interest rates which could bring relief to millions of home-owners.

Mr Lamont said that the difference between interest rates in Britain and Germany had fallen to its lowest level for 10 years.

The chancellor said that those who continued to press for a further dramatic cut in interest rates had to explain how this could be reconciled with Britain's continued membership of the exchange rate mechanism.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, accused the Tories of operating "blunderland economics".

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## Win and loss for Short

By RICHARD KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S Nigel Short, having moved a step nearer on Saturday to victory in the quarter-finals of the world chess championships in Brussels by beating Boris Gelfand in game five, was defeated yesterday in the sixth game.

In the latest game, Short stumbled into an opening trap known since 1975.

In the fifth game Short finally forced the Soviet's resignation on move 61. Short now leads the six-game match by 3½ points to 2½.

In the other matches, Viswanathan Anand (India) is adjourned against Anatoly Karpov (USSR), with Karpov leading 2½ to 1½. The sixth game is also unfinished. Jan Timman (The Netherlands) drew the fifth and sixth games with Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland) but Timman leads by 4 to 2.

Vassily Ivanchuk (USSR) beat Artur Yusupov (USSR) in the fifth game and leads 3½ to 2½ after drawing the sixth.

Game five: White, Short; Black, Gelfand

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	d5	28 f3	g4
2 c4	c6	29 e4	g5
3 Nf3	Nf6	30 e5	g6
4 e3	e6	31 f4	g7
5 Bb5	Bd7	32 f5	g8
6 Bxc6	Bxc6	33 f6	g9
7 d5	Nd7	34 f7	g10
8 Qd2	Qc7	35 f8	g11
9 Bxf7	Qxf7	36 f9	g12
10 Nc3	Nd7	37 f10	g13
11 Nf4	Nf6	38 f11	g14
12 Bg5	Bd7	39 f12	g15
13 Bxf6	Bxf6	40 f13	g16
14 Nf4	Nf6	41 f14	g17
15 Nf5	Nf6	42 f15	g18
16 Nf6	Nf6	43 f16	g19
17 Bc7	Bd7	44 f17	g20
18 Nf5	Nf6	45 f18	g21
19 Nf6	Nf6	46 f19	g22
20 Nf7	Nf6	47 f20	g23
21 Nf8	Nf6	48 f21	g24
22 Nf9	Nf6	49 f22	g25
23 Nf10	Nf6	50 f23	g26
24 Nf11	Nf6	51 f24	g27
25 Nf12	Nf6	52 f25	g28
26 Nf13	Nf6	53 f26	g29
27 Nf14	Nf6	54 f27	g30
28 Nf15	Nf6	55 f28	g31
29 Nf16	Nf6	56 f29	g32
30 Nf17	Nf6	57 f30	g33
31 Nf18	Nf6	58 f31	g34
32 Nf19	Nf6	59 f32	g35
33 Nf20	Nf6	60 f33	g36
34 Nf21	Nf6	61 f34	g37
35 Nf22	Nf6	62 f35	g38
36 Nf23	Nf6	63 f36	g39
37 Nf24	Nf6	64 f37	g40
38 Nf25	Nf6	65 f38	g41
39 Nf26	Nf6	66 f39	g42
40 Nf27	Nf6	67 f40	g43
41 Nf28	Nf6	68 f41	g44
42 Nf29	Nf6	69 f42	g45
43 Nf30	Nf6	70 f43	g46
44 Nf31	Nf6	71 f44	g47
45 Nf32	Nf6	72 f45	g48
46 Nf33	Nf6	73 f46	g49
47 Nf34	Nf6	74 f47	g50
48 Nf35	Nf6	75 f48	g51
49 Nf36	Nf6	76 f49	g52
50 Nf37	Nf6	77 f50	g53
51 Nf38	Nf6	78 f51	g54
52 Nf39	Nf6	79 f52	g55
53 Nf40	Nf6	80 f53	g56
54 Nf41	Nf6	81 f54	g57
55 Nf42	Nf6	82 f55	g58
56 Nf43	Nf6	83 f56	g59
57 Nf44	Nf6	84 f57	g60
58 Nf45	Nf6	85 f58	g61
59 Nf46	Nf6	86 f59	g62
60 Nf47	Nf6	87 f60	g63
61 Nf48	Nf6	88 f61	g64
62 Nf49	Nf6	89 f62	g65
63 Nf50	Nf6	90 f63	g66
64 Nf51	Nf6	91 f64	g67
65 Nf52	Nf6	92 f65	g68
66 Nf53	Nf6	93 f66	g69
67 Nf54	Nf6	94 f67	g70
68 Nf55	Nf6	95 f68	g71
69 Nf56	Nf6	96 f69	g72
70 Nf57	Nf6	97 f70	g73
71 Nf58	Nf6	98 f71	g74
72 Nf59	Nf6	99 f72	g75
73 Nf60	Nf6	100 f73	g76

Game six: White, Gelfand; Black, Short

6																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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# Indecisive doctors blamed for needless heart attack deaths

FROM THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN AMSTERDAM

MANY heart attack victims die needlessly because hospitals deny them potentially life-saving drugs, or fail to treat them quickly enough, specialists said yesterday.

International studies involving more than 60,000 patients have shown that a relatively new group of drugs called thrombolytics or "clot-busters" cut deaths by up to 25 per cent if given within a few hours of the attack.

However, many patients are denied the treatment or get it too late, Peter Sleight, professor of cardiology at the John Radcliffe hospital, Oxford, told the annual congress of the

European Society of Cardiology in Amsterdam.

He blamed indecision among hospital doctors over which patients should be given the drugs, inefficiency in emergency departments, and administrative difficulties.

"The earlier patients are treated, the better the outcome, but many physicians are still restricting therapy only to patients seen within six hours of onset of symptoms," Professor Sleight said.

Doctors were imposing rules that were too rigid when deciding which individuals should be treated, he said. Professor Sleight was one of

the organisers of the ISIS-3 international trial of the drugs, involving 46,000 patients in scores of hospitals in Europe and the United States. About 15,000 patients have taken part in similar studies.

Professor Sleight could not estimate how many heart attack victims were being denied the drugs, but he told the conference: "It is clear that many eligible patients are not being treated."

Three different types of drug are involved. They are streptokinase, the oldest and cheapest, anistreplase and t-PA, both of which have been developed more recently and are much more expensive. All three have been shown to be equally effective.

However, doctors who took part in the ISIS-3 trial were uncertain about whether 20 per cent of the patients — more than 9,000 — were likely to benefit from the treatment, Professor Sleight said.

Their doubts related to questions such as whether patients were too elderly, or were coming into hospital too long after the onset of symptoms. "It is apparent from a preliminary overview of all the relevant data that age should not be a disqualifying factor for this therapy," he said.

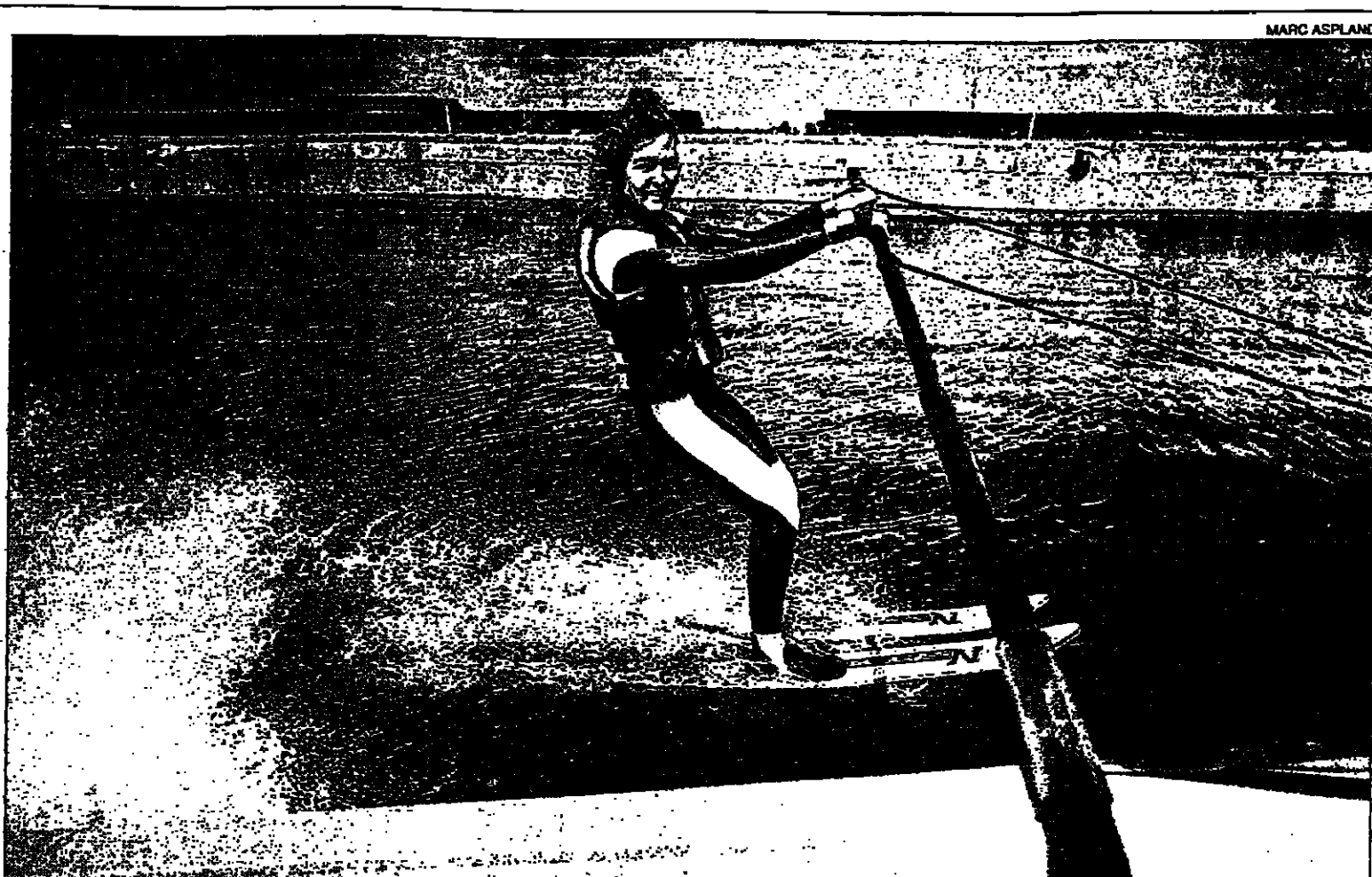
Patients aged over 70 were at increased risk of a stroke caused by the treatment, but overall their survival chances were improved by the drugs. Heart attack victims could still be given the drugs more than 12 hours after onset and get some benefit, Professor Sleight said.

"Another important factor is poor organisation in hospital, particularly between the emergency room and the coronary care unit. Treatment should not be delayed while a bed is sought in the unit, but should be initiated in the emergency room if necessary,"

Douglas Chamberlain, president of the British Cardiac Society, told the conference: "We are all frustrated by the fact that we have the means to reverse many heart attacks but we fail to do so because of delays."

Those delays included the time it took a patient to call for help, the response of the GP and the ambulance service, and the time taken to assess the patient after admission to hospital.

Dr Chamberlain said the hospital delays were the easiest to change. He said the interval between the patient reaching hospital and being given a drug injection was often at least two hours and could be cut down to 15 minutes with proper organisation and training.



Beginner's luck: Helen Medhurst, from Caterham, Surrey, tries out waterskiing for the first time yesterday from the practice bar of a speedboat. A waterskiing club in King George V Dock, east London, close to the City Airport, was offering free trials as part of a special open day.

## Borrie likely to challenge price fixing appeal win

By TONY DAVE

A COURT of Appeal victory by a major company involved in a price-fixing ring for the supply of ready-mixed concrete is likely to be challenged in the House of Lords.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of fair trading, has told *The Times* that he will seek leave to appeal to the Lords because he believes that the case poses a serious threat to his already limited powers for policing cartels.

His decision comes as pressure is mounting on the government to implement a 1989 white paper that proposes stiffer penalties for companies guilty of making price-fixing and market-sharing agreements. The campaign is being led by local authorities, which believe that cartels in road-making and building materials are putting an extra £100 million burden on taxpayers.

Sir Gordon fears that the ruling in favour of Smiths Concrete, which is 49 per cent owned by the Hanson aggregates subsidiary ARC, could encourage other companies to disregard the law.

Smiths was one of several companies caught making covert deals after being banned from doing so by the Restrictive Practices' Court. Last month it was cleared in the appeal court on the grounds that the manager who had attended the price-fixing meetings had acted against the company's wishes and that it had taken all reasonable steps to prevent him.

Sir Gordon said: "It should be a matter of shame for the ready-mixed concrete industry that many of its prominent

members so quickly reverted to the price-fixing and market-sharing outlawed by the Restrictive Practices' Court. On the information I have been given, it must be very clear that any steps such companies may have taken to prevent a recurrence were largely ineffective."

Smiths had been banned from entering into price-fixing agreements in the late 1970s and, under existing law, could be fined only if it repeated the offences.

The OFT discovered that from March 1983, representatives of Smiths and three other companies had met at least once a month in public houses, especially The Chequers at Newbury, Berkshire, to make market-sharing and price-fixing deals for the supply of ready-mixed concrete in Oxfordshire.

The representative had agreed which company should submit the lowest price for forthcoming contracts. They decided to allocate new business in the proportion of 43 per cent to Smiths, 21 per cent each to Pioneer Concrete (UK) and Ready Mixed Concrete (Thames Valley), and 15 per cent to Hartigan Ready-mixed, which later received a larger share.

All four firms and two of their managers were fined for contempt of the Restrictive Practices' Court last year. Smiths, the only company to contest its involvement in the cartel, received the largest fine, £25,000, but this was quashed when the appeal court ruled that Smiths had not authorised its representative to enter the agreement.

## Scientists hunt for the Holy Grail of genetics

Ethical worries over the consequences of mapping human genes is confusing scientists' work, Nick Nuttall writes

THE Holy Grail of genetics, the £2 billion programme to map the human genome, will today receive the close attention of 700 of the world's leading scientists. The genome is the total amount of genetic material in a human cell.

The conference in London comes as 2,000 of the estimated 50,000 genes, the basic codes of life carried on the 23 pairs of chromosomes, have been mapped. These are already helping to shed new light on inherited diseases such as cystic fibrosis, haemophilia and Duchenne muscular dystrophy, as well as pointing the way to new and better treatments.

It is estimated that the project will take nearly 15 years to finish. Then, every inch of the 3,000 million chemical sequences which can cause more than 3,000 known inherited diseases, influence and control development and might confer skills such as musical ability, will have been mapped and plotted.

The meeting comes at an auspicious time for the project, with some scientists convinced that this week's jamboree, the eleventh of its kind, will also be its last.

To improve exchange of information between participating laboratories a computer base has been established at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. By October British scientists will be able to tap directly into the base from their laboratory computers, partly ending the need for such huge gatherings.

It also comes amid calls by scientists to collect and store for future mapping the genes of vanishing tribes and endangered peoples, including the South American Indians, the Eas of Japan and the Hill People of New Guinea. The information could be used to trace the movements of races since the beginning of time.

Delegates to this week's conference are also likely to discuss the many unresolved ethical issues surrounding their work. They include concern over the patenting of human genes and that the ability to map a person's genetic code and locate defects might be abused by employers or insurance companies.

Others argue that being able to discover that someone is at risk from an inherited disease is a more sophisticated version of the screenings already carried out when job ap-

plicants are asked about family history or medical problems.

There is also concern over whether mankind, after mapping the human genome, has the right to meddle with individual genes to improve or rid a person of certain characteristics at the request of another agent.

The host of this week's conference is the Human Genome Organisation, set up in 1988 to co-ordinate the research programme and headed by Sir Walter Bodmer, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

## Brothels urged to stop rent boy lure

By RAY CLANCY

LOWERING the age of homosexual consent and legalising male prostitution could stop boys as young as 11 being lured into working as rent boys, according to a police report to be published next month.

The Home Office, which gave a grant towards the study, said it would take note of the recommendations from Sergeant Keith Donovan, of the West Midlands police, who examined male prostitution in Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester over 12 months. However, there are no plans at this stage to consider new legislation.

Sergeant Donovan found that boys from the age of 11 were recruited outside school gates, at swimming pools and in public parks and could earn up to £250 a night. They risked catching Aids as well as suffering psychologically for the rest of their lives.

The officer says in the report, *Hidden from View*, that the police are often reluctant to deal with male prostitution because of "personal discomfort and distaste" and a feeling that boys are less vulnerable than girls. He recommends that the homosexual age of consent be lowered from 21 to 18 and licensed brothels set up to take rent boys off the streets.

The report is a disturbing picture of a world where disease, petty crime, drugs and violence are commonplace. Sergeant Donovan says that other European countries have more liberal laws governing homosexual activity, especially Denmark and The Netherlands, where the age of consent for homosexuals is 15 and 16 respectively.

He found an area in Birmingham where at least 30 male prostitutes, mostly working alone, loitered in doorways and bus shelters. Clients included successful businessmen who did not want to be seen in gay pubs or clubs.

### AGENDA

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Today** Confederation of British Industry/Financial Times survey of distributed trades report published. European Cardiology Congress in Amsterdam.

**Tuesday** National Audit Office report on the pollution inspectorate released. Money supply figures for July published.

**Wednesday** GCSE results sent out. HMS London leaves for Barents Sea to exercise with Soviet warships for first time since the second world war.

**Thursday** Audit Commission annual report published. Balance of payment figures for July made public.

**Friday** International Television Festival begins, Edinburgh. CBI monthly trends figures.

**Saturday** Jazz festival opens in Bude, Cornwall.

**Sunday** British Association meeting, Plymouth. Notting Hill carnival begins.

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Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (no. inc STD) Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bedrooms (please tick): ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33 ☐ 34 ☐ 35 ☐ 36 ☐ 37 ☐ 38 ☐ 39 ☐ 40 ☐ 41 ☐ 42 ☐ 43 ☐ 44 ☐ 45 ☐ 46 ☐ 47 ☐ 48 ☐ 49 ☐ 50 ☐ 51 ☐ 52 ☐ 53 ☐ 54 ☐ 55 ☐ 56 ☐ 57 ☐ 58 ☐ 59 ☐ 60 ☐ 61 ☐ 62 ☐ 63 ☐ 64 ☐ 65 ☐ 66 ☐ 67 ☐ 68 ☐ 69 ☐ 70 ☐ 71 ☐ 72 ☐ 73 ☐ 74 ☐ 75 ☐ 76 ☐ 77 ☐ 78 ☐ 79 ☐ 80 ☐ 81 ☐ 82 ☐ 83 ☐ 84 ☐ 85 ☐ 86 ☐ 87 ☐ 88 ☐ 89 ☐ 90 ☐ 91 ☐ 92 ☐ 93 ☐ 94 ☐ 95 ☐ 96 ☐ 97 ☐ 98 ☐ 99 ☐ 100 ☐ 101 ☐ 102 ☐ 103 ☐ 104 ☐ 105 ☐ 106 ☐ 107 ☐ 108 ☐ 109 ☐ 110 ☐ 111 ☐ 112 ☐ 113 ☐ 114 ☐ 115 ☐ 116 ☐ 117 ☐ 118 ☐ 119 ☐ 120 ☐ 121 ☐ 122 ☐ 123 ☐ 124 ☐ 125 ☐ 126 ☐ 127 ☐ 128 ☐ 129 ☐ 130 ☐ 131 ☐ 132 ☐ 133 ☐ 134 ☐ 135 ☐ 136 ☐ 137 ☐ 138 ☐ 139 ☐ 140 ☐ 141 ☐ 142 ☐ 143 ☐ 144 ☐ 145 ☐ 146 ☐ 147 ☐ 148 ☐ 149 ☐ 150 ☐ 151 ☐ 152 ☐ 153 ☐ 154 ☐ 155 ☐ 156 ☐ 157 ☐ 158 ☐ 159 ☐ 160 ☐ 161 ☐ 162 ☐ 163 ☐ 164 ☐ 165 ☐ 166 ☐ 167 ☐ 168 ☐ 169 ☐ 170 ☐ 171 ☐ 172 ☐ 173 ☐ 174 ☐ 175 ☐ 176 ☐ 177 ☐ 178 ☐ 179 ☐ 180 ☐ 181 ☐ 182 ☐ 183 ☐ 184 ☐ 185 ☐ 186 ☐ 187 ☐ 188 ☐ 189 ☐ 190 ☐ 191 ☐ 192 ☐ 193 ☐ 194 ☐ 195 ☐ 196 ☐ 197 ☐ 198 ☐ 199 ☐ 200 ☐ 201 ☐ 202 ☐ 203 ☐ 204 ☐ 205 ☐ 206 ☐ 207 ☐ 208 ☐ 209 ☐ 210 ☐ 211 ☐ 212 ☐ 213 ☐ 214 ☐ 215 ☐ 216 ☐ 217 ☐ 218 ☐ 219 ☐ 220 ☐ 221 ☐ 222 ☐ 223 ☐ 224 ☐ 225 ☐ 226 ☐ 227 ☐ 228 ☐ 229 ☐ 230 ☐ 231 ☐ 232 ☐ 233 ☐ 234 ☐ 235 ☐ 236 ☐ 237 ☐ 238 ☐ 239 ☐ 240 ☐ 241 ☐ 242 ☐ 243 ☐ 244 ☐ 245 ☐ 246 ☐ 247 ☐ 248 ☐ 249 ☐ 250 ☐ 251 ☐ 252 ☐ 253 ☐ 254 ☐ 255 ☐ 256 ☐ 257 ☐ 258 ☐ 259 ☐ 260 ☐ 261 ☐ 262 ☐ 263 ☐ 264 ☐ 265 ☐ 266 ☐ 267 ☐ 268 ☐ 269 ☐ 270 ☐ 271 ☐ 272 ☐ 273 ☐ 274 ☐ 275 ☐ 276 ☐ 277 ☐ 278 ☐ 279 ☐ 280 ☐ 281 ☐ 282 ☐ 283 ☐ 284 ☐ 285 ☐ 286 ☐ 287 ☐ 288 ☐ 289 ☐ 290 ☐ 291 ☐ 292 ☐ 293 ☐ 294 ☐ 295 ☐ 296 ☐ 297 ☐ 298 ☐ 299 ☐ 300 ☐ 301 ☐ 302 ☐ 303 ☐ 304 ☐ 305 ☐ 306 ☐ 307 ☐ 308 ☐ 309 ☐ 310 ☐ 311 ☐ 312 ☐ 313 ☐ 314 ☐ 315 ☐ 316 ☐ 317 ☐ 318 ☐ 319 ☐ 320 ☐ 321 ☐ 322 ☐ 323 ☐ 324 ☐ 325 ☐ 326 ☐ 327 ☐ 328 ☐ 329 ☐ 330 ☐ 331 ☐ 332 ☐ 333 ☐ 334 ☐ 335 ☐ 336 ☐ 337 ☐ 338 ☐ 339 ☐ 340 ☐ 341 ☐ 342 ☐ 343 ☐ 344 ☐ 345 ☐ 346 ☐ 347 ☐ 348 ☐ 349 ☐ 350 ☐ 351 ☐ 352 ☐ 353 ☐ 354 ☐ 355 ☐ 356 ☐ 357 ☐ 358 ☐ 359 ☐ 360 ☐ 361 ☐ 362 ☐ 363 ☐ 364 ☐ 365 ☐ 366 ☐ 367 ☐ 368 ☐ 369 ☐ 370 ☐ 371 ☐ 372 ☐ 373 ☐ 374 ☐ 375 ☐ 376 ☐ 377 ☐ 378 ☐ 379 ☐ 380 ☐ 381 ☐ 382 ☐ 383 ☐ 384 ☐ 385 ☐ 386 ☐ 387 ☐ 388 ☐ 389 ☐ 390 ☐ 391 ☐ 392 ☐ 393 ☐ 394 ☐ 395 ☐ 396 ☐ 397 ☐ 398 ☐ 399 ☐ 400 ☐ 401 ☐ 402 ☐ 403 ☐ 404 ☐ 405 ☐ 406 ☐ 407 ☐ 408 ☐ 409 ☐ 410 ☐ 411 ☐ 412 ☐ 413 ☐ 414 ☐ 415 ☐ 416 ☐ 417 ☐ 418 ☐ 419 ☐ 420 ☐ 421 ☐ 422 ☐ 423 ☐ 424 ☐ 425 ☐ 426 ☐ 427 ☐ 428 ☐ 429 ☐ 430 ☐ 431 ☐ 432 ☐ 433 ☐ 434 ☐ 435 ☐ 436 ☐ 437 ☐ 438 ☐ 439 ☐ 440 ☐ 441 ☐ 442 ☐ 443 ☐ 444 ☐ 445 ☐ 446 ☐ 447 ☐ 448 ☐ 449 ☐ 450 ☐ 451 ☐ 452 ☐ 453 ☐ 454 ☐ 455 ☐ 456 ☐ 457 ☐ 458 ☐ 459 ☐ 460 ☐ 461 ☐ 462 ☐ 463 ☐ 464 ☐ 465 ☐ 466 ☐ 467 ☐ 468 ☐ 469 ☐ 470 ☐ 471 ☐ 472 ☐ 473 ☐ 474 ☐ 475 ☐ 476 ☐ 477 ☐ 478 ☐ 479 ☐ 480 ☐ 481 ☐ 482 ☐ 483 ☐ 484 ☐ 485 ☐ 486 ☐ 487 ☐ 488 ☐ 489 ☐ 490 ☐ 491 ☐ 492 ☐ 493 ☐ 494 ☐ 495 ☐ 496 ☐ 497 ☐ 498 ☐ 499 ☐ 500 ☐ 501 ☐ 502 ☐ 503 ☐ 504 ☐ 505 ☐ 506 ☐ 507 ☐ 508 ☐ 509 ☐ 510 ☐ 511 ☐ 512 ☐ 513 ☐ 514 ☐ 515 ☐ 516 ☐ 517 ☐ 518 ☐ 519 ☐ 520 ☐ 521 ☐ 522 ☐ 523 ☐ 524 ☐ 525 ☐ 526 ☐ 527 ☐ 528 ☐ 529 ☐ 530 ☐ 531 ☐ 532 ☐ 533 ☐ 534 ☐ 535 ☐ 536 ☐ 537 ☐ 538 ☐ 539 ☐ 540 ☐ 541 ☐ 542 ☐ 543 ☐ 544 ☐ 545 ☐ 546 ☐ 547 ☐ 548 ☐ 549 ☐ 550 ☐ 551 ☐ 552 ☐ 553 ☐ 554 ☐ 555 ☐ 556 ☐ 557 ☐ 558 ☐ 559 ☐ 560 ☐ 561 ☐ 562 ☐ 563 ☐ 564 ☐ 565 ☐ 566 ☐ 567 ☐ 568 ☐ 569 ☐ 570 ☐ 571 ☐ 572 ☐ 573 ☐ 574 ☐ 575 ☐ 576 ☐ 577 ☐ 578 ☐ 579 ☐ 580 ☐ 581 ☐ 582 ☐ 583 ☐ 584 ☐ 585 ☐ 586 ☐ 587 ☐ 588 ☐ 589 ☐ 590 ☐ 591 ☐ 592 ☐ 593 ☐ 594 ☐ 595 ☐ 596 ☐ 597 ☐ 598 ☐ 599 ☐ 600 ☐ 601 ☐ 602 ☐ 603 ☐ 604 ☐ 605 ☐ 606 ☐ 607 ☐ 608 ☐ 609 ☐ 610 ☐ 611 ☐ 612 ☐ 613 ☐ 614 ☐ 615 ☐ 616 ☐ 617 ☐ 618 ☐ 619 ☐ 620 ☐ 621 ☐ 622 ☐ 623 ☐ 624 ☐ 625 ☐ 626 ☐ 627 ☐ 628 ☐ 629 ☐ 630 ☐ 631 ☐ 632 ☐ 633 ☐ 634 ☐ 635 ☐ 636 ☐ 637 ☐ 638 ☐ 639 ☐ 640 ☐ 641 ☐ 642 ☐ 643 ☐ 644 ☐ 645 ☐ 646 ☐ 647 ☐ 648 ☐ 649 ☐ 650 ☐ 651 ☐ 652 ☐ 653 ☐ 654 ☐ 655 ☐ 656 ☐ 657 ☐ 658 ☐ 659 ☐ 660 ☐ 661 ☐ 662 ☐ 663 ☐ 664 ☐ 665 ☐ 666 ☐ 667 ☐ 668 ☐ 669 ☐ 670 ☐ 671 ☐ 672 ☐ 673 ☐ 674 ☐ 675 ☐ 676 ☐ 677 ☐ 678 ☐ 679 ☐ 680 ☐ 681 ☐ 682 ☐ 683 ☐ 684 ☐ 685 ☐ 686 ☐ 687 ☐ 688 ☐ 689 ☐ 690 ☐ 691 ☐ 692 ☐ 693 ☐ 694 ☐ 695 ☐ 696 ☐ 697 ☐ 698 ☐ 699 ☐ 700 ☐ 701 ☐ 702 ☐ 703 ☐ 704 ☐ 705 ☐ 706 ☐ 707 ☐ 708 ☐ 709 ☐ 710 ☐ 711 ☐ 712



The local store has taken a long time dying, but market research is now coming to its aid

## Shopkeepers must adapt and diversify to survive

By RAY CLANCY AND RONALD FAUX

ENGLAND is a nation of shopkeepers, Napoleon said after his defeat at Waterloo, repeating the phrase first uttered by the economist and philosopher Adam Smith. In those days every village had several stores but now they are lucky to have one.

The death of the neighbourhood shop was predicted in the 1960s with the rural village store the hardest hit. Market research published last week, however, indicated that the only shops that can survive are those able to adapt to the present economic climate and cater for the range of goods demanded by locals.

In 1961, England had 147,000 village shops. Since then they have been closing at the rate of thousands every year. According to the Rural Development Commission there are now only 39,000 left.

The neighbourhood shop, in towns and in the country, has suffered from the onslaught of supermarkets and improvements in town centre shopping. An estimated 50,000 outlets closed in the 1970s and 20,000 in the 1980s, according to a report published last week by Verdict Research.

Those still surviving are having to provide a wide variety of services. Newspapers are essential but the shops have to cater also for those who want three eggs rather than a half-dozen, the farmer who wants a pint of paraffin, and the elderly woman who wants a cup of flour.

The Verdict report said: "The successful shop is the one that does not try to compete with the supermarket. When it comes to price and depth of range the large outlet is bound to win. The neighbourhood store must build on its strengths — convenient location, long opening hours, products carefully selected to fit in with local needs. People expect local shops to be more expensive but many are willing to pay the price for the sake of convenience and in

emergencies." Researchers predict that the grocer, the baker and the butcher will continue their decline. Of all local shops, confectioners, tobacconists and newsagents have the largest percentage of customers with 54 per cent of people using them at least once a week. They are followed by grocers/supermarkets at 42 per cent. Only 19 per cent use butchers, 17 per cent bakers and 25 per cent chemists.

The Rural Development Commission says that many couples setting up rural businesses fail to appreciate the amount of commitment required. Beryl Smith, a small business adviser to the commission in Cumbria, has found that some couples discover that even though they have been married happily for many years, it is impossible for them to work together seven days a week.

The fact that village shops change hands on average once every 18 months speaks for itself. Often a village store cannot sustain the borrowing required. Cash flow difficulties restrict ability to buy stock and since stock levels are linked to profit, a downward spiral begins. Mrs Smith said that the village shop can become



Community power: Wootton Courtenay residents outside the village's only shop, which they saved from closure by becoming shareholders

an ideal outlet for local crafts and for partnerships with other businesses near by, particularly bakers, as well as providing film developing, videos and dry cleaning. The more services the better the business will be regarded.

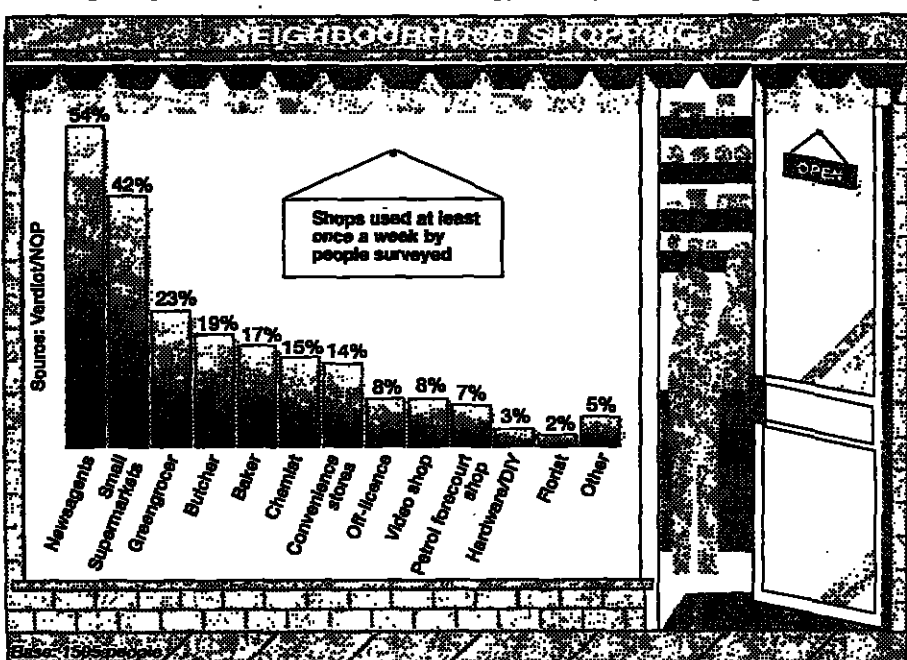
Profit depends on the mix of goods and services provided but 16 per cent is a reasonable average. About 80 per cent of sales, however, comes from 20 per cent of stock — the skill of the successful village shopkeeper lies in selecting that 20 per cent and how it will be supported by

the rest. The Post Office believes that the mail provides a vital communications lifeline in remote areas.

It enables businesses to carry out their operations by incorporating a post office within a store.

It means, however, the end of the independent grocer not affiliated to any particular wholesaler or trading group. "The future lies with the broadly based shop serving many different needs."

Leading article, page 13



## Teacher reveals in switch from classroom to Cabin

THE Cabin packs the needs of Carl, Cumbria, into a small span. The shelves of Pru and Eddie Read's village shop are filled with everything from washing powder, from frozen fish to The Times (Ronald Faux writes).

The couple switched their life-style four years ago when Eddie took early retirement as a deputy headmaster at a comprehensive in Preston and Pru gave up her job as secretary to a local managing director. Their three children had grown up and fled the family nest, a large house on the edge of Preston, and the couple bought a bungalow near Newby Bridge in the Lake District.

She described what happened next. "We actually became bored stupid. Eddie had planned to do supply teaching but the education authority were reluctant to give work to someone they had just paid to retire."

"We love this part of south Cumbria and have been coming here for holidays. Then two years ago we saw the Cabin on the market. It was literally a wooden cabin, pretty run down, that

had been a newsagent's and confectioner's. We bought it for £25,000, exactly Eddie's redundancy payment."

They spent three months painting and decorating the building and opened for business in March 1989 taking £87 on their first day of business.

Village shopkeeping is regarded as an odd male preserve although because of her previous job, it was Pru who had the better understanding of retailing, marketing and stock control.

Eddie, a specialist in mathematics, did the sums and there was active help from the Rural Development Commission.

"You get out of it what you put in. Try your best to provide a service to the community, and have as many lines as you can, reasonable stock, and people will support you. If the villagers take you on you will run a successful business," Pru says.

Carl has a population of 600 which doubles when the summer visitors arrive. Not many years ago the village was served by five or six shops, now only the Cabin, a

draper's shop and the local post office survive. The nearest supermarket is 20 miles and more than a gallon of petrol away.

"In an odd way the recession has actually helped us. People are less inclined to go to the supermarket and do one big weekly buy-in. They are more careful with their money and buy day-by-day from the village shop, where there is less likelihood of being lured into buying non-essentials," she says.

Since moving in, the original wooden cabin has gone and only the name remains on a new building twice the size and with living accommodation upstairs. Turnover has risen from £853 in the first week to £6,200 and the shop, open seven days a week, employs one full-time and four part-time staff.

The Reads have few regrets. They live and work in an appreciating asset in a beautiful part of the country and their shop is an important focal point in the community. Regrets? That they did not discover Carl two years ago and those long, well-remembered school summer holidays.

## Residents chip in to save last shop

THE village of Wootton Courtenay had two stores, three pubs, two tailors, two bakeries, a carpenter and a forge in the 1930s. A year ago the only remaining village shop was making a loss and about to close down (Ray Clancy writes).

The experience of the 280 villagers — the population has remained more or less the same — is typical of country areas all over Britain but the solution they found in Somerset was unique. More than 140 villagers are now shareholders in the Villagers' Store Ltd after using their savings to rescue the shop. No dividends or profits are expected at the first annual general meeting next month but instead champagne and congratulations all round.

Andrew Quarry, the shop owner, had plenty of business but found high interest rates crippling. After making repayments on his mortgage he simply did not have enough money to live on and so put the shop and three-bedroomed flat above up for sale at £130,000.

The nearest shops were seven miles away in Minehead with a twice-weekly bus service the only form of public transport. A meeting was called and 98 per cent of the residents turned up to hear Paddy Parnell, a recent arrival, having moved to the village 14 years ago, suggest that the residents use their combined savings to buy the shop.

The idea was voted a winner and a few weeks later £80,000 had been raised with contributions ranging from £100 to £5,000. A second appeal brought more donations and a £10,000 loan from the Rural Development Commission and an agreed selling price of £125,000 sealed the deal.

Now the glass-fronted shop nestles comfortably amidst the rose- and honeysuckle-clad pink and cream cottages and the villagers know that their only shop is safe.

"This place would have died if the shop had closed. The garage and the post office would have been next and then the petrol station," said Mr Parnell, who ran the shop for the first few months.

Now every morning at 8.30 there is a queue all the way along the main street as villagers arrive for their newspapers, milk and bread.

## Historic sites of England win record total of visits

By ROBIN YOUNG

VISITS to historic properties in England rose by 2 per cent last year to reach a record total of 71 million, generating revenue of £154 million, a 12 per cent increase on 1989.

For the second year running, Northumbria recorded the fastest growth in visits to historic sites among the 12 English regions, with an 8 per cent increase. The English Tourist Board, which monitors the figures, says that Northumbria's appeal was enhanced by the Gateshead garden festival.

The most rapid increase in visits for a property was claimed by Smeaton's Tower, owned by Plymouth city council, up by 72 per cent. Second place went to another council-owned property, Tamworth Castle, Staffordshire, where Tamworth borough council saw admissions rise by almost half last year.

Over half the 58 properties attracting more than 200,000 visitors in 1990 were cathedrals or churches. Most popular of all was Westminster Abbey, which drew an estimated three million visitors. The Tower of London had the highest number of paid-for admissions, at 2.3 million, a 4 per cent increase on 1989.

Increases in attendances were also reported from the six next most popular historic properties charging for admission: the Roman baths and pump room at Bath, with 950,000 visitors, up 2 per cent; the state apartments in Windsor Castle, with 855,000, up 6 per cent; Stonehenge with 703,000, up 3 per cent; Warwick Castle with 685,000, up 8 per cent; Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon with 604,000, up 6 per cent; and Leeds Castle, Kent, with 540,000 visitors, an increase of 2 per cent.

By December, more than 437,000 buildings were listed by the environment department as being of architectural

### PROPERTIES RECORDING TOP INCREASES IN VISITOR NUMBERS LAST YEAR

	1989	1990	%Change
Smeaton's Tower, Plymouth	38,252	65,865	+72
Tamworth Castle, Staffs	35,375	62,536	+49
Upton House, Banbury	32,588	48,604	+41
Hastings Castle	48,000	68,700	+39
New Place, Stratford	79,017	102,230	+29
Hall's Croft, Stratford	76,421	98,922	+29
Capethorne Hall, Macclesfield	56,000	70,000	+25
Mary Arden's House, Stratford	107,453	131,430	+22
Dryden Park, Avon	42,986	52,162	+21
Ardsall Roman Fort, South Shields	42,451	51,148	+20
Lanhydrock House, Bodmin	123,890	148,241	+20

Sources: English Heritage, National Trust and English Tourist Board.

or historic merit, an increase of nearly 200,000 since 1976. More than 6,000 properties are now listed Grade I, meaning that they are of exceptional interest, and about 23,000 are rated Grade II\* as being of particular importance.

The number of conservation areas, now 7,200, has more than doubled in the past 15 years. In that period, there were applications to demolish more than 8,000 listed buildings, and consent was given in more than 40 per cent of cases. The board says, however, that the rate of demolition is now only a quarter of that in 1979.

Countries with more than 15,000 listed buildings are Kent (20,808), Devon (19,205), Avon (16,699), Essex (16,227) and Greater London

(15,174). Listed buildings are thickest on the ground in Avon, London, Merseyside, West Yorkshire, and Tyne & Wear, while the highest densities per 100,000 people are in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Hereford and Worcester.

An extra 280 historic buildings have opened to the public since 1977, but many churches have been locked for fear of theft and vandalism.

The average entry charge to historic properties has risen from 32p in 1977 to £1.73 this year. More than 770 charge over £1, up from nine 15 years ago.

The English Heritage Monitor 1991 (English Tourist Board, Department D, 24 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0ET, £15)

## Ministry puts birthplace of radar up for sale

By JOHN YOUNG

BAWDSEY Manor, a Victorian mansion on the Suffolk coast which was the birthplace of radar in the 1930s, has been put up for sale by the defence ministry.

As RAF Bawdsey, it was the headquarters of a team of scientists under Sir Robert Watson-Watt, who developed the identification and air interception systems which played a crucial role in the second world war.

The house, which overlooks the mouth of the river Deben, was built as a summer home for Sir Cuthbert Quilter, founder of the National Phone Company in about 1886. Sir

Cuthbert was also MP for Sudbury for 21 years and introduced the Pure Beer Bill to prevent brewers from adulterating their products.

A lover of boats and the sea, he eventually made Bawdsey his main home, adding towers at either end of the house. He also extended the estate to 8,000 acres, stretching from the mouth of the river to Woodbridge.

In 1936 the house and 168 acres with cottages and outbuildings were sold to the Air Ministry for £24,000. When the war broke out, it was the first operational radar station in the country. It continued to monitor flights from airfields in eastern England throughout

the war, but the research programme was moved to a less vulnerable location.

In the 1950s it reverted to a top secret role as part of the RAF Rotor plan to protect radar systems from nuclear attack. It was later closed and then reopened as a Bloodhound missile base, and finally decommissioned earlier this year.

The house is a curious mixture of the grandiose and the mundane. The great hall and main rooms are lavishly decorated, while the rest consists of drab, institutional classrooms and bedrooms.

The house, with about 150 acres, is for sale by tender, and offers close on October 1.



For sale with 150 acres: Bawdsey Manor, on the Suffolk coast

## Union fights for training courses

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

EXTRA training for teachers to improve their classroom control will have to end because the government has withdrawn financial support, a teachers' union claims today.

Two separate schemes to train and support teachers dealing with disruptive and violent pupils were set up last year after a government-commissioned report from Lord Elton on discipline in schools in England and Wales. Lord Elton, a former Home Office minister, said that it was essential that teachers were given more training in classroom management and that this should become a national priority for funding under training grants from 1990 until at least 1994.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association says today that the government indicated that funds would be available for three years but that it was now "quietly dropping" support. A three-year scheme to offer support to teachers and schools with specific problems amounting to £2.2 million will end in 1993.

Meryl Thompson, head of the association's policy unit, said: "It is unbelievable that the government can withdraw

support not only on an issue which is central to its own school policies but one which is of great concern to parents and teachers."

The education department said that the government had guaranteed spending for only two years. "We have not withdrawn funding, it has simply come to an end."

University students will be offered two and four-year courses as well as the traditional three-year degree by the mid 1990s under proposals to be put to the government. Some science courses are already being extended to four years while Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has told universities that he expects some degrees to be completed within two years.

A group of 12 mathematicians chaired by Peter Neumann, a fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, has suggested that students who wish to become professional mathematicians should be offered a four-year course.

The proposals are designed to attract more people into mathematics at a time when A-level students are deserting maths and science in favour of arts subjects. Mr Neumann said that his committee, set up by the London Mathematical Society, wanted to encourage more people to choose mathematics for their degree course even if they wanted to follow other professions when they left university. The four-year course would attract the very best mathematicians who would go on to teach in higher education or work in banking and accountancy at the top level.

A four-year system is already being planned for some science courses and the maths committee hopes that it will be possible to introduce a four-year course by September 1994.

Education, pages 24-25

## Surprise £1,000 donation saves Constable exhibition

By JOHN SHAW

AN ART exhibition hit by a cash crisis received a surprise £1,000 donation during a private viewing at Gainsborough House Museum, Sudbury, Suffolk, at the weekend. An anonymous benefactor handed a cheque to Hugh Belsey, curator of the museum, which is mounting the exhibition, tracing the origins of landscape painting in Britain.

Preparations were well under way earlier this year when the sponsor, the Heim Gallery of Jermyn Street, London, went into receivership and

ceased trading in June. Its backing, and an equal amount from the government, would have meant total funding of about £15,000.

"This gentleman read of our difficulties, rang up and came forward with the money," Mr Belsey said yesterday. "We usually get about 2,500 people a month at this time of year and we would like double, if not triple, that to cover our costs."

"There are a lot of things here which have never been seen before, covering the whole range of influences on John Constable. He

took a long time to get going as an artist. The first pictures which indicate what he might eventually do emerged when he was 26 in 1802."

David Thomson, son of Lord Thomson of Fleet, the newspaper proprietor and one of the exhibition lenders, has also made a contribution and the latest cheque will help to reduce the shortfall to about £11,000.

The exhibition, From Gainsborough to Constable: the emergence of naturalism in British landscape painting 1750-1810, is

open at the museum until October 13 and then moves to the Leger Galleries, Old Bond Street, from November 14 to December 4.

The rising values of paintings by the Prince of Wales have prevented a village church from putting five on display to the public. Hundreds of visitors visited St Mary's Church at Burnham Market, Norfolk, yesterday to see the prince's latest four watercolours.

The church was offered nine paintings by the prince but could not afford the insurance to display them all. It paid a premium of

about £500. The prince's watercolours are believed to be valued at £10,000 each for insurance purposes.

A gold medal awarded to Sir Rowland Hill by the Royal Society of Arts in 1863, for his creation of the Penny Post, is expected to make up to £10,000 at Phillips in London on September 5. The medal will be sold with an illuminated parchment scroll and solid silver box marking his honorary freedom of the Fishmongers Company. The scroll and heavily engraved box have a pre-sale estimate of £10,000-£15,000.



## BAOR may hand back 40 bases to Germans

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 40 garrison stations used by soldiers from the British Army of the Rhine are expected to be handed back to the Germans under the government's plans to bring home 33,000 troops from Germany. BAOR commanders have been holding talks with the German authorities since last month's detailed announcement by Tom King, the defence secretary, of his plans for restructuring the army. The 55,000 British soldiers in Germany are housed in about 13 garrisons in the north and centre, but there are more than 80 smaller garrison stations stretching from Mönchengladbach to Hamburg. The list of stations to be closed has been agreed with the Germans and an announcement is expected this month. Many stations to be closed are in BAOR's rear combat area, and closures will have a significant effect on the prosperity of their districts.

Under plans agreed within Nato, Britain is to play the leading role in a multinational rapid reaction corps, one of several formations being created to replace standing armies in Germany. Its contribution will comprise a division of 25,000 in Germany and a lighter armed division in southeast England. The size and shape of the new allied formations were agreed within Nato, but Britain and Germany were left to decide on a bilateral basis which garrisons would be retained for the single British division. It was announced in November that two of the RAF's four bases in Germany are being closed. The Royal Navy's destroyer and frigate fleet could be cut to 30, in spite of a government pledge to retain about 40 warships, according to a report yesterday. Yards have been invited to tender for up to three more Type 23 frigates, but fears are growing in the shipbuilding industry that the Treasury will allow only two, and that contracts will not be awarded until spring at the earliest. Under the "options for change" defence review, the naval strength of some 50 destroyers and frigates is to be reduced to 40. However, after old warships approaching 25 years' service are phased out over two years, orders for replacements will be needed each year to guarantee the 40-ship fleet, according to naval sources.

## Prisoners found hanged

A man who was serving a life term for murder was found hanged in his cell at Wakefield prison yesterday. William McLiech Mackenzie Patrick, aged 31 was jailed in 1988. At Dorchester prison, Raymond Peringer, aged 45, of Weymouth, was found hanged from his cell bars. He was on remand after being charged with the attempted murder of his former wife, Paul Orange, 29, of Holbeck, Leeds, was found dead in his cell at the Leeds Bridewell. He had been arrested for alleged drunkenness three hours earlier.

## Baby reclaimed

A mother was reunited with her baby girl after abandoning the child in a cardboard box outside Johnson's hospital, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

## Crash victims

Two men killed when their plane crashed at Ashampstead, Berkshire, on Saturday were named as Geoffrey Wilcox, aged 39, of Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire, and Robert Chamberlain, 67, of Harley Wintney, Hampshire.

## Lorry accident

Gary Hillyard, aged 19, of Laverstock, Wiltshire, was critically ill after being hit by a lorry's wing mirror and sent crashing through the window of a public house at Stoford, near Salisbury.

## Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw: £100,000, bond number RK 136888, Middlesex, value of holding £170, £50,000, 29ZF 313765, Hereford and Worcester, £9,790; £25,000, 7AS 756474 west London, £1,000.

## Tree planter's vision is forestry with a human face

Scotland's natural woodlands have been under siege for a long time, most recently by sitka spruce. Kerry Gill reports on one man's ecological mission



Tree massacre: Martin Mathers, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, on the bare slopes of Glencoe, where only outcrops of birch and rowan survive

IN THE grounds of his farmhouse, on the west coast of Sutherland overlooking the sound of Hunda, Bernard Planterose daily tends his nursery of birch, willow, oak, hazel and rowan. His aim is to promote alternative woodlands that will produce a rich ecological mix in his corner of northwest Scotland. Mr Planterose, who started *The Tree Planter's Guide* to the *Galaxy* magazine two years ago, rears about 50,000 native trees a year outside the village of Scourie. He hopes that his company, Reforesting Scotland, will soon achieve charitable status. The company's remit is to integrate native woodland management with other forms of land use, and put trees back on to the land to increase its fertility. Woods used to cover a good part of Scotland, a mix of Scots pine and birch in the central and east Highlands, and mainly birch with localised oak and hazel in the west and far north. Today only 14 per cent is under trees, of which only 1 per cent is native woodland. Mr Planterose says. The alien sitka spruce forest has taken over the hills, its regimented lines introduced by deep ploughing, drainage and bulldozed access roads, destroying natural habitats. Efforts by individuals such as Mr Planterose, however small, are welcomed by the World Wide Fund for Nature, which recently formed its forest unit, charged with conserving temperate, northern and savannah forests as well as those in the tropics. Martin Mathers, of the fund, said that forest management in Britain should set an example. "At present it doesn't, so it's very difficult for us to complain about what people are doing to, say, the Brazilian rain forest or the forests of British Columbia," he said. More than 12,000 acres of Scotland were planted with conifers each year while ancient natural woodlands of Scots pines, birch, oak, hazel and rowan were disappearing. Mr Mathers pointed to Glen Falloch, above Loch Lomond, where the native pines have all but died out, largely due to over-grazing by generations of sheep. A small area fenced off for research showed that the pines could regenerate surrounded by natural vegetation if managed properly. "What is left of this ancient forest will have probably gone within the next 20 years. This example is the worst pine wood I know of. You can compare Glen Falloch with Abernethy forest, which is properly managed and is possibly the best that survives," he said. Further north, near Tyn-drum, is another pine wood surrounded by commercial planting. It is gradually dying but could be saved if sheep were kept at bay. On the edge of Loch Leven is an example of what can happen when spruce are planted on a steep hillside. Winds have toppled trees in their thousands causing landslip and erosion. There are similar sights all over the Highlands. Even at Glencoe, scene of the bloody massacre of 1692 and ravaged by sheep introduced after the Highland Clearances, native trees have been reduced to outcrops of birch and rowan in rocky clefts.

## Training places loss criticised

By DOUGLAS BROOM

THE government was criticised yesterday over the collapse of the only national training programme for homeless teenagers.

For the past 12 years, Service Away From Home has provided accommodation and training in the caring professions for 100 homeless young people aged 16-17 each year. Most have left local authority care or remand hotels and without the two-year scheme would not have been able to take up training places.

The scheme has fallen foul of the transfer of responsibility for training in April from the employment department to the 83 Training and Enterprise Councils (Tecs). As a nationwide scheme, the service does not come under the control of any one Tec, and a failure to agree who should fund it means it will close in three weeks.

Margaret Hoodless, executive director of Community Service Volunteers, which runs the scheme, said the health department would spend £1 million to provide 70 beds a year for homeless young people yet the employment department would not continue to provide the £800,000 to guarantee accommodation and training for 100 young people. "This programme should be expanded not destroyed," she added.

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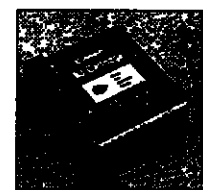
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## Foreign food eats its way into British affections

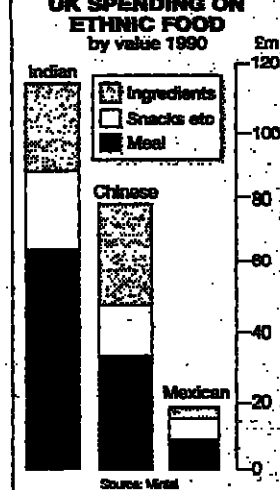
By ROBIN YOUNG

TRADITIONAL British cooking is good enough for only a third of households these days, according to the market researchers Mintel. Steak and chips are being ousted by foreign fare such as Peking duck, chicken tikka and chilli con carne.

A poll of 979 housewives found that only a third claimed that they never ate ethnic foods. More than two fifths of the respondents claimed to have prepared Chinese and Indian recipes in the past six months, and almost a quarter had tried their hand at Tex-Mex cuisine, such as chilli con carne.

The survey excluded takeaway meals, but included meals made from basic ingredients and those bought part-prepared and finished in the home.

An eighth of the housewives had dabbled in Spanish cooking, while smaller proportions had attempted Turkish kebabs, Afro-Caribbean dishes, Thai and Malaysian delicacies, or Japanese sushi. The retail sales markets for Chinese food ingredients was estimated at £30 million last year and £26.5 million for Indian ingredients. The



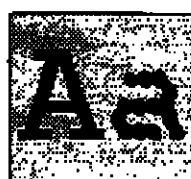
70 per cent, bringing total sales to £17 million. Fastest growing were the markets for foods from other countries such as Greece, Turkey, Thailand and Japan, which when grouped together had increased their value by 383 per cent in three years, bringing last year's sales to about £29 million.

The researchers found that those aged under 34 ate more ethnic food than other groups. The higher the socio-economic group the more likely respondents were to eat ethnic food at home.

There were no marked differences between different regions of the country though those in London and the South ate slightly more ethnic food than those elsewhere because of the more widespread availability of specialised ethnic foodstuffs.

The researchers suggest that markets for home ingredients tend to follow the number of ethnic restaurants available and point out that the number of Thai, Malaysian and Japanese restaurants in the country is still small and confined to comparatively small areas.

Ethnic Food Market Intelligence (Mintel Publications Ltd. 071-606 6000, £185)



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While others use  
starch to thicken  
their tomato ketchup,  
Heinz just use tomatoes.



## ANC dissidents allege torture in prison camps

From RAY KENNEDY in JOHANNESBURG

TWENTY African National Congress dissidents, including a number who acted as agents for South African intelligence, alleged here yesterday that they had been tortured by the ANC at its prison camps in Angola and Uganda.

The exiles were in a group of 32 dissidents flown to Johannesburg late on Saturday after being freed from camps.

"They are afraid of the ANC and have asked us to protect them. The group includes some of our men," a security source said.

The dissidents, looking thin and bedraggled, were taken at once to a debriefing session with South African officials. Straight after the meeting, 20 asked to break away from the original group and were taken to a hotel in Johannesburg.

Tony Pfanner, the director of the International Committee of the Red Cross mission in South Africa, said that it had agreed with the ANC to care for all 32 until an operation to repatriate an estimated 40,000 exiles under the supervision of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees is in place.

One of the 20 being guarded by South African police, Joachim Ribeiro de Souza, said that during the five years he was held by the ANC, he was beaten and kicked unconscious.

"At one stage, I woke up and found I was hanging upside down. My head felt like it was going to burst. I must have been hanging that way for hours," he said. He had been falsely accused by the ANC of spying. Mr Ribeiro de Souza said he joined the ANC in 1981 and served in its guerrilla wing. South African security police detained him in 1986 and tried to get him to spy. He refused, but after his return to exile was imprisoned by the ANC.

ANC leaders, including Oliver Tambo, the then president, visited the prisoners in Angola and Uganda and knew about the bad conditions.

Last week, Pretoria and the UN high commissioner announced they had agreed on the voluntary repatriation of exiles, who will not have to give an account of their "political crimes" when seeking indemnity. But the government reserves the right to prosecute returning exiles alleged to have committed serious common-law crimes.

The ANC expressed its disquiet about the agreement at the weekend, and Dr Max Coleman, of the independent Human Rights Commission, said exiles had no guarantee of returning home after the remaining 1,000 political prisoners still held in South Africa had been released before there was a new government.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, and President de Klerk are due to meet today to discuss the country's education problems and negotiations on a new non-racial system.

Protest group disbands: The United Democratic Front was dissolved yesterday, after a closing rally near Cape Town, saying that its battle for non-racial democracy would soon be achieved in South Africa.

Murphy Morobe, the publicity secretary of the front, said: "Today, as the UDF closes shop, even that constitution which we sought to render ineffective is on its deathbed." The front, a coalition of 750 groups, was formed eight years ago to support the ANC. (Reuters)



Wave guides: residents of the Australian Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane, dragging a 30-tonne young humpback whale back into the sea after the 29ft creature became disorientated and beached itself

## Harare rejects pleas for mercy

From MICHAEL HARTNACK in HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe of Zimbabwe is ignoring appeals from the African National Congress to contribute to detente in southern Africa by freeing five former members of the Rhodesian security forces held in Zimbabwe jails.

Among the prisoners in Chikurubi maximum security prison outside Harare is Dennis Charles "Sammy" Beahan, aged 41, from Manchester, who joined the Rhodesian Special Air Service after he left the Parachute Regiment in 1974.

He had been working as a hotel security guard in Randburg, South Africa when he was recruited for the bungled South African commando raid on a Zimbabwean prison van ferrying captured South African agents to court in 1988. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, after allegedly being tortured into making a confession.

With Beahan is a white Zimbabwean, Barry Bayden, aged 33, serving a life sentence for aiding the South African anti-ANC raids which wrecked the Commonwealth "eminent persons' group" initiative in 1987.

In the condemned cells at Chikurubi are Phillip Conjwayo, aged 56, a retired Rhodesian police warrant officer, Michael Smith, aged 38, a former Rhodesian army engineer, and Kevin Woods, aged 39, a former officer of the Central Intelligence Organisation who continued in his post after independence in 1980.

The three were sentenced to be hanged for killing a Zimbabwean driver in a car-bomb attack in January 1988 on an ANC "safe house" in Treanance, Bulawayo. In mitigation, they said the ANC's bombing campaign against South African civilian targets was then at its height.

It is ironic that their old foe, the ANC, should have taken up their cause, sending envoys to plead with President Mugabe for their freedom in the hope that this will disarm right-wing hysteria over the various sought-for condemned ANC saboteurs. Most controversial of these is Robert McBride, who killed three white women when he bombed a cocktail bar. But President Mugabe believes the five are in an especially heinous moral category because they were acting on behalf of a foreign power, not fighting their own government as were the ANC cadres.



Mugabe: refusing ANC request to free prisoners

## Killer's motive baffles police

From ASSOCIATED PRESS in SYDNEY

POLICE yesterday began to put together a psychological profile of the taxi driver, aged 33, who killed seven people and then himself in a shopping mall in suburban Sydney on Saturday, but his motive remained a mystery.

Armed with an assault rifle and a machete, the man stabbed to death a girl of 15, then fatally shot six other people in Strathfield before killing himself. "It's hard to figure out," a police officer told a news conference.

Police are withholding the gunman's name, to give his sister, with whom he lived, time to move to a new home to avoid publicity. The man had inherited money after his mother died about a year ago. The police would not disclose

the amount, but Australian Associated Press put the figure at \$450,000 (£190,000).

The police said the man had a licence for the assault rifle, a Chinese-made self-loading automatic weapon. Bob Hawke, the prime minister, said he would immediately begin talks with state governments to adopt uniform gun laws. New South Wales allows the import of some foreign-made or designed rifles; other states do not.

At least eight other people were injured in the incident. Six remained in hospital yesterday, one in a serious condition, the others stable. A woman aged 47 who had been injured died about eight hours after reaching hospital. Two men and five women, not

including the gunman, were killed in the ten-minute incident.

According to initial accounts, the man first attacked Roberta Armstrong, a coffee shop assistant, repeatedly plunging the knife into her back. He then took up the assault rifle and shot three women sitting in the shop. Two of those killed were mother and daughter.

George Mavris, who owned the shop, was killed next, shot in the chest as he ran from the kitchen to see what was happening. The gunman walked out into the plaza, firing at shoppers who dived for cover or ran for their lives. He killed another man on the way to the upper-level car park, where he then shot himself.

## Drug boss pleads innocence

From STEVEN GUTKIN in BOGOTA

PABLO Escobar, aged 41, the jailed cocaine boss, describes himself as a human rights activist and blames Colombia's police chiefs for terrorist attacks attributed to his Medellin drug cartel.

"I only consider myself a fighter. I have never acted against my conscience," he says in a written response to 30 questions submitted by reporters. Escobar turned himself in to Colombian authorities in June and is being held in makeshift jail in his home town of Envigado. In five typewritten pages bearing his signature and fingerprint, the leader of the Medellin cocaine cartel offers rare glimpses of his life and view of the world. Despite American aid for his government's anti-drug campaign, Escobar claims that he admires Americans.

He says he does not "smoke, drink liquor or consume drugs". He would like to study journalism in jail in order to "write a column for an important newspaper or magazine".

Escobar was listed by Forbes magazine in the late 1980s as one of the world's richest men. At one time he financed roads, stadiums, street lights, soccer fields and houses for the poor of Medellin. "I know there are a lot of people who love me and ... who pray for me," he writes.

Escobar said the killings attributed to him over the years were in fact committed by "high police officials and press-conference generals". Authorities blame him for the killings of three presidential candidates, a justice minister, an attorney-general, a newspaper publisher and hundreds of others, including 10 per cent of the Medellin police force. (AP)

## Mexican voters weigh up Salinas reform package

From REUTER in MEXICO CITY

MEXICANS voted yesterday in mid-term elections seen as a referendum on the economic reforms of President Salinas de Gortari and a test of whether he can match economic transformation with deep political change.

President Salinas has won widespread praise for the economic reforms that have slashed inflation, shored up public finances, and spurred economic growth during the first half of the year. His policies have also lured foreign investment that boosted Mexico's capital accounts surplus to \$8.72 billion (£5.25 billion). However, he has also been criticised at home and

abroad for failing to add serious democratic reform to his economic project, dubbed "Salinasstroika" by the Mexican press.

Señor Salinas came to the presidency through disputed elections in 1988 in which the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) received its lowest vote ever. In the 62 years since the PRI was formed, it has been accused of rigging elections to maintain its stranglehold on power, and Señor Salinas has been dogged by accusations that his government is the result of yesterday's elections. His opponents, half of the 64-seat Senate and the entire Congress

were at stake, and polls showed the party again routing its left and right-wing opponents. Electoral reforms, including new voters' rolls and identification cards, transparent ballot boxes, and a new federal electoral institute, were approved by Congress last year to ensure the poll — the first national one since Señor Salinas took office — will be free and fair. Voters remain sceptical, and analysts said this would be reflected in much absenteeism.

For Salinas appears to have a high approval rating as to his economic policies, including a high-profile programme to reduce poverty.

## Body of British diver recovered

Hong Kong — Three British divers and a New Zealander trapped in a decompression chamber on a barge which sank in stormy waters off Hong Kong last week have been confirmed dead (Jonathan Braude writes).

The bodies of two of the men, Terry Dennison, a Briton, and John Lyons, the New Zealander, who were caught in the chamber when the oil-pipe-laying Derrick Barge DB29 capsized in a typhoon, have been recovered and identified. Trevor Barry, the search mission co-ordinator, said the other divers, Steve Hardy, of Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire, and Brian Sheppard, must be presumed dead, although the chamber is still missing in 400ft of water.

## Somali appeal

Mogadishu — Ali Mahdi Muhammad, of the United Somali Congress party, was sworn in for a two-year term as president of Somalia, which is embroiled in civil war. Thousands heard him call for unity against forces loyal to the ousted military ruler, Siad Barre, and pledge to restore law and order. (AFP)

## Tamil suicides

Bangalore — Twelve Tamil Tiger guerrillas committed suicide by swallowing cyanide rather than be captured in police raids on their southern Indian hideouts. Five were captured alive and members of a special team investigating the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister, are to question them. (Reuters)

## Bhutto absent

Lahore — Benazir Bhutto, the former Pakistan prime minister, failed to appear before a special tribunal here, bringing a demand by the state council that she should be arrested. Miss Bhutto, who is in Karachi, had been summoned to answer charges of misuse of power filed by President Ishaq Khan. (AFP)

## Exile returns

Yaounde — Thousands of supporters greeted Bello Bouba Maigari, the former Cameroonian prime minister, when he returned home after seven years of self-imposed exile in Nigeria. (AFP)

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## Jesuit exposes island atrocities

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS in BATTICALOA

CONSIDERING the carnage that Batticaloa has endured, the Rotary Club's sign on the main road into the Sri Lankan town is rather superfluous: "Drive carefully. Thank you." There is an army or police checkpoint about every 100 yards, so it is quicker to walk.

Father Harry Miller, an American Jesuit priest, is to be found at St Michael's. One of his fellow priests vanished last year, presumed killed. The work is dangerous as well as sickening. Last year Father Miller discovered piles of bodies burning on a pyre made from old tyres. All were alleged to be victims of army atrocities.

He came to Batticaloa in 1948. Occasionally he goes back to New Orleans, but he intends to see out his life in Sri Lanka. His life's mission has been to work with Tamils, a good number of whom are Christians, al-

though most are Hindus. That puts him and his ilk right in the middle of Sri Lanka's ethnic war.

It is approaching zero hour, six o'clock, when dusk starts to fall and people are hurrying home to be off the streets by dark. Father Miller is just back from a Rotary Club meeting. It was poorly attended yet again. Many professional people have left town, leaving only 20 to keep the club alive.

The old priest, striding up the stairs to his office in the attic, is anxious to talk about atrocities. He says that hundreds of men vanished in the space of three or four months last year, and he wants the army to confess to mass slaughter.

Burrowing into a rusty filing cabinet, he produces long lists of missing men, most of them young, some of them boys, all Tamils. They vanished in last summer's army offensive, during which towns and cities

of the Eastern Province, then controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, were recaptured.

There are Methodists and Quakers in Batticaloa, too. Like the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Quakers have unhindered access to Tiger-controlled areas in the countryside. This way, messages can be relayed between the combatants. Both sides frequently want to know about missing individuals. The American and the Englishman at the Quaker office refused to talk about their work, and the Red Cross was equally reticent. Both organisations regard their position as acutely, even dangerously, sensitive.

Father Miller, worried by the encroaching night, hurries through his story. He says 2,000 to 2,500 out of 2,717 people reported missing are presumed to have died in army custody. He says he knows the site of one

mass grave, because a man who had been stabbed in his chest and back lived to tell the story, despite being bulldozed beneath the dirt with 180-odd corpses.

But news from the Eastern Province is not entirely bleak. A presidential commission is investigating one of the alleged massacres, the first time the government has taken such a step, and human rights workers say the worst of the atrocities have stopped.

The priest comments: "This commission is highly significant. We won't allow it to be a whitewash. We persuaded 50 people to testify before it, even though they were afraid of reprisals. The situation here has definitely improved. People were going missing by the hundreds before. Now it is just one here and there. But those who are guilty of last year's mass murders must be brought to book."



# Gorbachev returns to cabinet revolt over union treaty

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev returns to Moscow from his Crimean holiday today to face a double emergency in his administration over the new union treaty and the latest upsurge of ethnic violence in the Transcaucasus.

With only hours remaining before the first three republics sign the treaty, the Soviet cabinet has demanded clarification — and revision — of

several of its most crucial provisions. The revisions would leave food and energy supplies and financial control firmly in central hands.

The heads of two key republics, Russia and Kazakhstan, meanwhile challenged the president's will and ability to stop the fighting in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a barbed appeal to Presi-

dent Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev, offered to mediate in the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. "If Gorbachev cannot find the strength to do so himself", fighting has raged in and around Nagorno-Karabakh for more than two years, but reached new heights last week when Armenian fighters captured 40 Soviet interior ministry troops and demanded freedom for captured Armenians in exchange.

The main challenge to Mr Gorbachev came none the less from the cabinet which, according to Tass, has formulated a "package of proposals" to become an inseparable part of the union treaty. The cabinet, chaired in Mr Gorbachev's absence by Valentin Pavlov, the prime minister, also complained that the treaty failed to remove the potential for conflict between central and republic laws.

Its criticism of the treaty followed a week of complaints from heads of individual state sectors who warned that the Soviet Union faced ruin in its present form. They included the head of the state bank, the head of the state tax inspectorate, and the minister of the oil industry, who accused the prime minister of standing idly by while the country's formerly lucrative oil and gas sector went to ruin. Although wrapped in references to the "market economy", the last-minute complaints appeared to reflect fears that the treaty will bring the demise of the powerful central ministries.

This is what many republic leaders, including Mr Yeltsin and Mr Nazarbayev, have demanded from the treaty and they will not take kindly to suggestions that it should be revised. At a press conference with Mr Nazarbayev in Alma Ata, the Kazakh capital, at the weekend, Mr Yeltsin was adamant: "If we sign the treaty, but Pavlov's cabinet remains — archaic like its chairman and with 72 ministries — then they will continue to crush us."

There are a dozen such camps in Zagreb for the republic's internal refugees, and more along the Adriatic coast, where tourist hotels now house some of Croatia's 30,000 displaced people. Croats, with their Catholic faith and Austro-Hungarian heritage, have long considered themselves part of mainstream European culture. They find it almost incomprehensible that they have become Europe's latest refugee problem.

"We saw the camps on television and thought, 'What reason have we for thinking it will happen here? We still believe something will happen to return us to normality,'" said Marica Jurkovic, a director at the Zvonko Brkic camp. Mrs Jurkovic is one of dozens of social workers called in to help cope with the flow of homeless Croats fleeing from Serb Chetniks and the Serb-controlled Yugoslav federal army. Most of the refugees are women and children. Their husbands stay on to present what defence they can against the overwhelming odds ranged against them.

Children suffer badly. Mrs Jurkovic said: "The children talk about weapons and guns and killing just like their elders. After the initial shock of leaving their homes, some recover quite quickly but others stay silent for a much longer time. They become very upset. Every day we have new people who come to us crying or telling us stories of brutality."

They tell of bodies of old and young found with gouged-out eyes and severed limbs. The Italian government is to hold further talks with the Tirana authorities about economic aid in the next few days.

The great majority of the would-be Albanian refugees were repatriated by ferry from Bari early last week, but after appalling scenes of violence as many fought to resist deportation, the authorities granted a reprieve to more than 2,000 people, saying their applications to stay would be examined case by case.



Body language: the commander of a Yugoslav federal army tank unit and an officer of the Croatian national guard negotiating a ceasefire after heavy fighting between Croatian and Serbian forces around the village of Okujani in the breakaway republic yesterday. Tension rises, page 1

## Refugee existence bemuses Croats

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN ZAGREB

MARA Novak, a farmer's wife aged 59, arrived at the Zvonko Brkic refugee centre in the Croatian capital after two weeks of travelling from village to village to escape the fighting. She said that, like many Croats, she has lost everything, including the younger members of her family killed in the civil war.

There are a dozen such camps in Zagreb for the republic's internal refugees, and more along the Adriatic coast, where tourist hotels now house some of Croatia's 30,000 displaced people.

Croats, with their Catholic faith and Austro-Hungarian heritage, have long considered themselves part of mainstream European culture. They find it almost incomprehensible that they have become Europe's latest refugee problem.

"We saw the camps on television and thought, 'What reason have we for thinking it will happen here? We still believe something will happen to return us to normality,'" said Marica Jurkovic, a director at the Zvonko Brkic camp. Mrs Jurkovic is one of dozens of social workers called in to help cope with the flow of homeless Croats fleeing from Serb Chetniks and the Serb-controlled Yugoslav federal army. Most of the refugees are women and children. Their husbands stay on to present what defence they can against the overwhelming odds ranged against them.

Children suffer badly. Mrs Jurkovic said: "The children talk about weapons and guns and killing just like their elders. After the initial shock of leaving their homes, some recover quite quickly but others stay silent for a much longer time. They become very upset. Every day we have new people who come to us crying or telling us stories of brutality."

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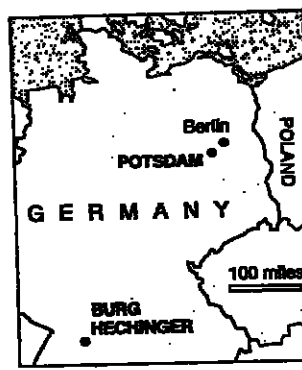
## Frederick the Great comes home to rest with whippets

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN POTSDAM

ON THE 25th anniversary of his death, Frederick the Great of Prussia was finally laid to rest at the weekend in the grave he had had prepared on the garden terraces of his Sanssouci palace in Potsdam. His coffin was lowered at the stroke of midnight to join the sepulchral company of his 13 favourite whippets.

Attended by 80,000 spectators, 32 titled members of the von Prussian dynasty, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and a 24-man guard of honour from the Bundeswehr, Frederick's return and reburial after nearly half a century of exile was scarcely "without pomp and show" without the slightest ceremony as he had stipulated in his will.

His coffin and that of Frederick Wilhelm I, his despised father, arrived from the Hohenzollern family seat at Burg Hedingen, near Stuttgart, by special steam train and were transported through the streets on a horse-drawn



carriage. Prussian flags and the red, white and black of the eagle banner under which Germany marched into the first world war competed in the procession with pacifist signs and a tableau of the burial with death-masked demonstrators carrying a rather lively corpse in a bathub.

Even the long-dead monarch was not safe from the clutches of Germany's "outing" campaigners. A group of radical homosexuals from Berlin joined the procession in crinolines, wigs and cod-

pieces to draw attention to the Prussian king's preference for the male company of writers such as Voltaire and the *Langen Kerls* regiment founded by his father. At the reinterment, Manfred Stolpe, the prime minister of Brandenburg, as well as a successor as the heart of old Prussia could wish for, called on the participants to practise the deceased state's virtues of calm and tolerance. "Two characteristics we in the federal republic are not yet able to boast are honoured as generously as in Prussia," he cautioned against the over-enthusiasm for the glory and military traditions of Prussia emerging in the east. "It is a day for cool heads. Neither euphoria at the *glorie* of Prussia nor total damnation and suppression of the Prussian heritage are called for," he declared.

The crowds remained good-humoured and docile, contentedly overawed by the rare chance to see a celebration of their history in a country which knows many commemorative days of grief and regret, barely any of pride.

They waited patiently in the drizzling rain to file past the coffin, which lay in the mausoleum draped in the quartered black and white flag. Some brought lilies.

Frederick's return to Potsdam represents more than the fulfilment of a monarch's wish. It is the new Germany's first public encounter with its pre-Hitler history and with the Prussian legacy which dominated it for some 250 years.

These days, the nearest this country comes to a truly fearsome, impeccably uniformed and highly trained force is the police. They turned out in their greatest numbers since unification to ward off possible clashes between neo-nazis celebrating Frederick's contribution to Germany's military record and radical left-wing groups protesting against it.

There were some brief scuffles involving fringe groups, and nine people were arrested in the evening when skinheads rampaged through the city centre.

## Nazis clash with far left over Hess

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

POLICE in Bayreuth used tear gas and baton charges to break up violent clashes between extreme left and right-wing demonstrators at the weekend after a neo-Nazi rally to mark the fourth anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy.

The right-wingers, many from east Germany, chanted slogans against foreigners. In eastern Germany, arson attacks on hostels for foreign refugees continued, with three more set ablaze. A gang attacked another, smashing all the doors and windows.

The clashes in Bayreuth spilled over on to the Nuremberg-Frankfurt motorway early yesterday when the coaches used by the rival groups stopped at the same service area.

On Saturday morning a large police presence prevented 2,000 neo-nazis from converging on the village of Wunsiedel, where Hess was buried after being found hanged in his cell at Spandau prison. The neo-nazis instead marched through Bayreuth where, according to police, 2,500 members of extreme-left groups had gathered. In the ensuing clashes, about 150 arrests were made. Many of those held had pistols, catapults, iron bars, pieces of pipe and poisonous aerosols.

The growing strength and organisation of the neo-nazis, particularly in the east, is alarming the authorities with some estimates suggesting that there are as many as 15,000 there ready to use violence against foreigners.

## Hurricane threatens Carolina resorts

Raleigh, North Carolina — Tourists and residents were ordered to evacuate seaside resorts yesterday as Hurricane Bob, with 90mph winds, sped towards them. The storm was expected to strike in the early hours of this morning.

A spokesman for the state's emergency services said evacuation of parts of the Outer Banks region was compulsory. But he urged residents in other coastal areas to leave as well. Four evacuation shelters were opened in inland areas of Carteret county, which includes part of the Outer Banks. Winds had already reached gale force by yesterday morning. The National Weather Service said the storm was expected to strike land between Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout. Tides of between four and seven feet higher than normal were expected on the North Carolina and Virginia coasts. (Reuters)

## Shackling crime

Warsaw — The Polish city of Lodz has revived the pillory to hold wrongdoers until police arrive, the PAP news agency said. In medieval times, victims manacled to a pillory were pelted with rotten fruit by angry crowds. The agency described the new pillory as "several metres high, adorned with shackles". (Reuters)

## Call of the flesh

Wels — An Austrian priest, aged 32, told his parishioners that his vow of celibacy was weighing too heavily on him and he was renouncing his mission. "It's no good. I can't go on," Father Peter Nanning said from the pulpit at St Stephen's church in Wels, Upper Austria. His announcement was applauded. (AFP)

## Basque protest

San Sebastian — Hundreds of Basque nationalist demonstrators erected barricades and burnt vehicles across the region to protest against the death of three Euzkadi guerrilla suspects in a shootout with police. The Red Cross said that 17 people suffered minor injuries in clashes with police. (Reuters)

## Tongue-tied

Altoona — A Pennsylvania toddler helped her uncle, aged 14, to get out of a sticky situation when his tongue got stuck to the inside of a freezer. Duane Della asked his niece, Melissa, aged two, to drag her highchair to the telephone, climb up and take the instrument to him so he could call for help. (AP)

## Racial attack

Forli, Italy — Two Senegalese were shot dead and a third was seriously injured in the latest of a series of what police suspect are racially motivated attacks. The men were fired on from a passing car as they drove along a minor road near San Mauro Pascoli (AFP)

## Reel robber

Baltimore — A boy, aged ten, was accused of armed robbery for the second time since May, allegedly stealing a boy's yo-yo. The owner, aged eight, was walking with a friend when the ten-year-old reportedly produced a pistol and ran away with the yo-yo. (AFP)

## Rome ruse puts Albanians on flights back to Tirana

By PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 2,000 Albanian refugees who thought that they were going to be allowed to stay in Italy have been tricked into boarding aircraft which took them straight back to Tirana.

By yesterday afternoon, the massive airlift of the remaining 2,500 Albanians was almost completed. Hundreds of police were involved and dozens of civilian and military aircraft used. A total of 49 planes took off from Naples, Rome, Milan, Genoa, Pisa, Turin, Venice and Bologna to fly the refugees to Albania.

One policeman said that when the Albanians recognised their own coastline there were cries of anger, but there was no violence. The Italian government said that

the step was taken in agreement with the Albanian authorities, who gave assurances that none of the refugees, including 700 army deserters, would be punished.

The play used in Bari helped to defuse the situation and allowed the authorities to split the Albanians into smaller groups and take them to various parts of northern Italy. The Albanians in Bari had been holding out in two groups of more than 1,000, refusing to board ferries back to Albania. Those airlifted over the weekend were the last of about 20,000 Albanians who had crossed the Adriatic to Italy earlier this month.

Early on Saturday morning, police woke up the Albanians and took them to various

airports. They were told that they were being taken to Rome for processing. Each Albanian had one Italian policeman as escort. But instead of flying south, the aircraft turned east towards Albania.

The Italian government is to hold further talks with the Tirana authorities about economic aid in the next few days.

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## Pope spells out minority rights

FROM ERNEST BECK, MARIPOCS, EASTERN HUNGARY

THE Pope did not disappoint the 200,000 faithful who gathered here yesterday for a three-hour Mass celebrated in blazing heat close to the Romanian frontier.

His solemn tones gave them the words which many who languished under 40 years of communism had waited to hear for so long. "Minorities have to be respected; they have the right to exist, to preserve their own culture and to use their own language, even if they live in other territories or states."

It was a moving moment. Elderly women in traditional dress, wrapped in black headscarves and clutching worn Bibles, wept openly. A group of Transylvanians in Szekely costume, carrying the embroidered emblem of their village, and a portable shrine with lighted candles, gazed hopefully at the podium where the Pope sat. "It is a very uplifting feeling," said Istvan Lantos, the group leader,

"because we have come here in the hope of regaining our independence."

The ethnic Hungarians of Transylvania suffered greatly under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu. Their language was virtually banned and their Roman Catholic religion destroyed. Church leaders were jailed, tortured and killed while puppet functionaries took their place.

Today, the fall of communism means freedom of religion, but the struggle for cultural rights and closer ties to the motherland continue. There was hope yesterday that the Pope's visit could change all that.

An elderly ethnic Hungarian man from the Ukraine, who lives in a squalid territory cut off from Hungary, said the day would bring people together and "unite Hungarians who live at home and abroad" in the cause of peace.

After the service, the crowd,



Smiles and sorrows: Slovak women in their national dress among the 200,000 who came from far and wide to greet the Pope yesterday at the pilgrimage to Mariapocs

some chanting Slovak songs, shuffled slowly through the village of Mariapocs, which since 1696 has been a traditional site of pilgrimage where worshippers said they

saw an icon of the Virgin Mary weeping. To the delight of many ministers in the centre-right government, the Pope's address on minority rights complements its agenda of

speaking out for the five million Hungarians who live abroad, a policy which has renewed tensions between Budapest and the Romanian and Yugoslav governments.



## Germans work on formula to release convicted brothers

By IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE German justice ministry is studying how the two Hamadi brothers could be released from their jail sentences for terrorism in exchange for the two German aid workers who are being held as hostages in Lebanon.

Iranian sources have made it clear that the surest way of ensuring the freedom of the two German hostages would be to free the Hamadis, whatever deal is negotiated for other prisoners. The foreign ministry here has said the sentences cannot be negotiated since they were imposed by an independent judiciary.

However, according to *Der Spiegel*, officials have now drawn attention to article 456a of the criminal code, which foresees the release of convicted prisoners, provided they are then expelled from the country. The magazine says that this would be legally easier to arrange than a presidential pardon for the two, since pardons are only possible when most of a prison sentence has been served.

This condition is not yet met. Abbas Hamadi was sentenced to 13 years in 1988 for kidnapping and coercing the West German government. He has published a letter

asking for the release of the German hostages and applied for a presidential pardon.

His younger brother, Muhammad, was given a life sentence in 1989 for murder and kidnapping. With remission for good behaviour, Abbas could be freed in four years, but Muhammad would serve at least another ten.

There is, however, a precedent for the early release of a prisoner who is then expelled. In 1983, a Libyan serving a life sentence for killing a Libyan diplomat was sent home in exchange for four Germans imprisoned for long sentences in Libya for a variety of offences.

At the same time, another two Libyans, on trial for torture charges, were released and expelled in exchange for eight other Germans.

Writing in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, Karsten Voigt, the foreign affairs spokesman of the opposition Social Democrats, insisted that the brothers should not be released early. Every surrender of the principles to pursue and punish terrorists and hostage-takers like other criminals would only save hostages in the short term, but in the long term would lead to more

hostages being taken, he said. In Edinburgh, relatives of the Lockerbie bomb victims yesterday pleaded for convicted Middle East terrorists to be kept behind bars.

The plea was issued by Dr Jim Swire, spokesman for the British relatives of those who died when terrorists brought down the Boeing 747 on December 21, 1988, killing 270 passengers, crew and residents of the Scottish town. Dr Swire, whose daughter Flora was among the victims, made his plea in Edinburgh where a requiem for Lockerbie to commemorate the disaster opened as part of the Edinburgh Festival.

Lockerbie relatives shared in the "genuine joy" at the release of hostages, he said. "No one wants to see the hostages released more than us. But there are a number of persons in custody in the West who have been properly tried and convicted of terrorist acts, many of which resulted in death for innocent victims."



Wife's vigil: Ron, with daughter Yuval, waiting in Tel Aviv yesterday for news of her husband lost in Lebanon and a key to a hostage swap

## Israel dampens hopes of early hostage barter

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Israeli hostage negotiator, Uri Lubrani, said on television here yesterday that it was a "fallacy" to think that the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon could be arranged quickly.

Mr Lubrani, who flew to Geneva last week to inform Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary general, of the Israeli position on the hostage problem, told ITN that an arrangement for their release could not be "created overnight". He said: "We know the complexity of the problem, we know the people with whom we have to deal and with whom the secretary general will have to deal." For the Israelis, he emphasised, "the only thing to happen is to get signs of life from our prisoners of war."

Mr Lubrani spoke as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said he thought it might take until the end of the year to get all the remaining hostages out. Dr Carey also proclaimed that the Church of England was still playing an active role in

attempts to free the hostages. Interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme, he said: "We are keeping in the background, but I can tell you that we are definitely there."

Dr Carey has named a new chief of hostage negotiations, Middle East expert Francis Wills. He replaced public affairs secretary John Lytle, who died earlier this year.

In Jerusalem yesterday, defence ministry officials, quoted by Voice of Israel radio, said Israel would not free any of the 400 Arabs it holds. The radio said Israel also would not allow the Red Cross to visit a Shia Muslim cleric until it received information on the seven Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon since 1982.

Sheikh Muhammad Husain Fadallah, the spiritual mentor of the Shia Hezbollah group, said yesterday in an interview with BBC radio: "If all parties respond positively to the quiet diplomacy of the UN secretary general, they will achieve a happy end to this issue."

## Baghdad counts cost of sanctions

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IN BAGHDAD'S first official estimate of the economic pressure it withstood to maintain the occupation of Kuwait, it said yesterday that United Nations sanctions had cost it \$17 billion (£10 billion) in the five and a half months before the Gulf war.

Samal Majid Faraj, the Iraqi planning minister, said lost oil production from the invasion on August 2, 1990, until the allied offensive began on January 17 accounted for \$10 billion. In remarks reported by the Iraqi news agency, he estimated losses caused by a "total or partial halt in other sectors" at \$4 billion.

Iraq also lost \$948 million as a result of increased production costs and \$710 million because of delays to development projects, he said. The loss of earnings from trade and services amounted to a further \$1.32 billion.

The comments came as Iraq was preparing to resume oil sales for the first time since sanctions were imposed.

## Anderson sister at service

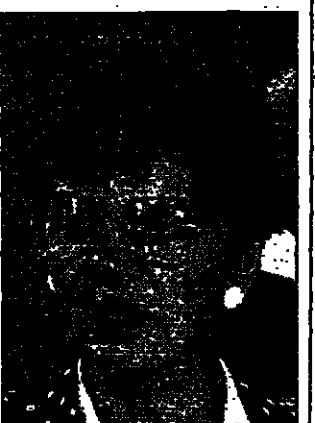
By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PEGGY SAY, the sister of Terry Anderson, the American hostage, went to the morning service yesterday at the journalists' church, St Bride's, in London.

John McCarthy spent the last year of his captivity with Mr Anderson. After the service, Mrs Say said: "I hope to see him in the next couple of days but I don't want to rush him." She said that she wanted to see the church where people had remembered John. "Today's service was a good experience in all the confusion," she said.

Mr McCarthy remained in hiding yesterday as he learnt to adjust to being out of the protective care of the RAF and took yet another step towards leading a normal life.

Karen Talbot, from the Friends of John McCarthy, the group which campaigned for his release, said: "John is just having a peaceful and quiet time. He has gone away to continue the process begun at RAF Lyneham."



Hymn of hope: Say in the St Bride's choir yesterday

## Three die in Sidon rampage

Sidon - A gunman went berserk in this southern Lebanese port yesterday, hurling grenades and dynamite sticks at random. Police said three people died and eight were wounded before the gunman was killed by Lebanese troops.

A police spokesman said the killer, a member of a disarmed left-wing militia which controlled Sidon during the civil war, climbed on to a rooftop in the Kanaya suburb to stage his evening attack. "He had a bagful of grenades and dynamite sticks which he threw at pedestrians below him," the spokesman said.

The dead included two members of the left-wing Nasrallah militia and a woman passer-by. Troops at a nearby checkpoint fired their machineguns and killed the man. It could not be determined what made the gunman, who used the nom de guerre of Castro, run amok. (AP)

## Prisoners freed

Algiers - The Algerian government has begun to release 329 Islamic fundamentalist prisoners, but their leaders and almost 800 others must remain in jail. Sidi Ahmed Ghazali, the prime minister, said the goodwill gesture before talks with the opposition would not apply to prisoners facing trial. (AFP)

## Arafat 'must go'

Jerusalem - A splinter group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation has called for Yasser Arafat, the PLO's chairman, to be sacked. The January 14 Corrective Movement accuses Mr Arafat of bringing "devastation" to the Palestinians. (AP)

## Major to lobby for rights link with aid

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is to urge the Commonwealth to follow its policy of denying aid to Third World countries that violate human rights and deny democracy to their citizens.

John Major is to call for support from fellow Commonwealth heads of government, when they meet in Harare in October, for his new policy of aid to good government. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has already urged the European Community to threaten dictators with an immediate cut-off in EC development funds, which now amount to about \$2.5 billion (£1.5 billion).

The policy was outlined yesterday by Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, who said taxpayers resented having their money spent on "brutish and self-serving regimes". In a *Sunday Times* article, she dismissed as "claptrap" accusations that Western criticism of totalitarian regimes in the Third World amounted to neo-colonialism. "Errant regimes can no longer cloak their authoritarian tendencies in marxist jargon, or look to a super-

power to bail them out." Britain has already halted aid to Sudan, Somalia and Burma because of their poor human rights record. At the same time, it has pledged more grants for countries striving to uphold and improve human and civil rights, and in June announced an extra £50 million for such projects as supporting local government structures in Zambia, civil service reforms in Ghana, and public administration training in India.

The policy of tying aid to human rights has been attacked by some developing countries. Critics call it a cloak to cover cuts in aid.

But Mr Major is likely to find broad support in Harare. With the ending of the struggle to abolish apartheid, the Commonwealth is searching for a new moral role that can underpin its authority, and Chief Emeka Anyanwu, its Nigerian secretary-general, is eager to promote the group's role in upholding human rights among its members and in other countries.

Leading article, page 13



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PROMS: INTERVIEW

# Speaking softly, carrying a baton

Claudio Abbado, the former conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra who moved on to the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonics, is in Britain for two Proms. Richard Morrison profiles a music master

Compared with Chicago, Berlin or Vienna, London has this to be said for it: we see a lot of good conductors on their way up. Karajan and Muti, for instance, both made wonderful music with the Philharmonia in the 1950s and 1970s respectively. But when the maestro develops the muscle to demand the best — top fees, maximum rehearsal time, absolute orchestral perfection — London becomes less appealing. This is the town where cream rises, then disappears.

So it was with Claudio Abbado. Seeing him conduct twice at the Proms within a week will inevitably induce nostalgia: Abbado's period with the London Symphony Orchestra was a glorious adventure. He was 44 and known chiefly as music director of La Scala, Milan when, in 1977, the LSO invited him to take charge in the wake of the bloodletting (nasty even by LSO standards) that had led to André Previn's departure.

Abbado was a revelation. He brought continental sophistication, and glamorous engagements at top European festivals. He led the LSO into its new Baroque home, bravely swallowed his disappointment at its acoustics, and — with the 1985 "Mahler, Vienna and the 20th Century" festival — established the thematic programming that has dominated London's concert life ever since. And he revealed a brilliant ear for sonority: the LSO suddenly began playing Debussy and Stravinsky like craftsmen reborn.

More than that, the players revered him. Abbado was private but not aloof, Italian but not temperamental, cultured yet somehow attuned to the Dunkirk spirit that passes for humour in British orchestras. At the Edinburgh Festival one year he led a football team against the LSO (Domingo played in midfield) and won 4-3. He bought the LSO table-tennis equipment for its rehearsal hall, and promptly beat all comers.

Nothing went wrong with the relationship. It was simply the London Effect that drew Abbado away. The writing was on the wall as early as 1983, when Deutsche Grammophon offered Abbado the chance to record all Beethoven's symphonies. Fine, except that the

orchestra selected was the Vienna Philharmonic, not the LSO. The break with London came in 1986. Abbado was, as expected, confirmed as music director of the Vienna State Opera and named *Generalmusikdirektor* of the city of Vienna. In Vienna he embarked on a series of remarkable operatic re-evaluations that attested to his musical curiosity: there was Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*, and Schubert's almost unknown *Fledermaus*. Craftily, Abbado ensured that each rediscovery was tied to a DG recording, even the coffers of the Vienna State Opera are not bottomless.

At the same time he founded the "Wien Modern" festival, counterbalancing the city's stultifying conservatism with an annual dose of contemporary music. The Vienna Philharmonic, most snobbish of all orchestras, took to Abbado as firmly as the LSO had. It seemed as if Vienna and Abbado was a marriage made in heaven.

The most remarkable chapter, however, was still to be written. After Karajan died, the Berlin Philharmonic initially inclined to the view that, after decades of despotism, it was rather pleasant to have no principal conductor at all. Practicality won the day, however. In the summer of 1989 a huge lobbying process began. Men in suits from New York and Tokyo courted the Berliners as assiduously as Renaissance ambassadors arranging marriages between dual dynasties. Maael, Levine, Muti, Barenboim, Mehta: all had agents and record companies wheeling and dealing on their behalf.

To its credit, the Berlin Philharmonic disengaged itself from this unwelcome scramble, and constructed a shortlist comprising the two conductors — Abbado and

Bernard Haitink — who had not been lobbying furiously. In the end, Abbado took the vote and accepted the Berlin job, while retaining his Viennese responsibilities. Both men subsequently made revealingly similar remarks. "For me," Abbado said, "it is very important that the Berliners made their choice democratically and without interference from the record industry." And Haitink echoed that: "I felt admiration that the Berliners had made an excellent musical choice; that they had not considered 'candidates' who might be called a 'business choice'."

So Abbado is now undisputed king of the two great musical capitals of Europe. He is much too canny to get drawn into comparisons ("such different animals, the Berlin and Vienna orchestras, such contrasting ways..."). And without appearing even to play the game of musical politics, he also has two powerful record companies, Sony and DG, vying for his services. He must be the world's top-earning conductor.

In fact, at 58 he wields more musical power than anyone ever, except perhaps Karajan in his heyday. And that is bizarre, because Abbado's personality could not be more different from Karajan's. He abhors dictatorial tactics; will never shout at players; indeed, will not speak much at all if he can convey what he wants with his hands and eyes.

This repugnance to any display of power might be traced to an incident in Abbado's childhood: his mother was imprisoned by the Nazis for harbouring a Jewish child. Equally revealingly, though, he declares his musical hero to be Furtwängler ("those long, beautiful phrases on his recordings, yet always each individual note is clear") and claims to abhor Toscanini ("he was horrible to the orchestra. All that shouting"). But mild-mannered or not, Abbado has a stubborn perfectionism; his rehearsals can get very static if the sound in his imagination is not precisely matched by reality.

What does Abbado's pre-eminence tell us about the classical music business in the 1990s? Most encouragingly, it signals that a conductor does not have to sacrifice ideals to reach goals. The

cynics have been, at least temporarily, confounded. Abbado no longer organises concerts for factory workers, as he did at La Scala, but his idealism remains remarkably uncompromised.

That is neatly symbolised by his two Proms concerts: one is with the Berlin Philharmonic; the other with a youth orchestra, the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, which he co-founded to give eastern European children the same opportunities as their western contemporaries have had with his other youth project, the European Community Youth Orchestra.

What, though, of the quality of his interpretations? Here, there is room for contention. Those who maintain that modern music-making — primarily geared to producing perfect compact discs — has renounced the title of controversy

and character, may find little in Abbado's performances to displease them. His readings are superbly cultured, certainly, for Abbado conducts nothing without knowing everything about a composer. And on a good day his refusal to insert his own personality between the notes and the listener, or to sensationalise the music, can produce stunning clarity. But on a bad day, Abbado can sound pedantic and impersonal.

That was dramatically emphasised at the Proms four years ago. The Vienna Philharmonic appeared, with Bernstein conducting Mahler's Fifth Symphony on the first night and Abbado conducting Beethoven's Ninth on the second. Bernstein's interpretation was, well, Bernstein at his most compulsively neurotic: a performance that nobody present will ever forget. The next evening was bound to be an anti-climax; but even allowing

for that, Abbado's cool presentation seemed emotionally pallid. Disappointment clouded the night.

Yet even this story increases one's admiration of Abbado. After all, which other conductor would even agree to follow Bernstein in such circumstances? Now Abbado has an even harder act to follow in Berlin. His rivals and their various acolytes, consumed with jealousy, will seize on every recording, every concert, for signs of decline in the standards of that great orchestra. Somehow, I think they will be disappointed. Given reasonable health, Abbado should tower over the European music scene for the next 20 years.

● Claudio Abbado conducts the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester at the Proms tomorrow (7.30pm), and the Berlin Philharmonic next Monday (8pm); both concerts are at the Albert Hall (071-823 9998).

PROMS: REVIEW

## Ghost buster

So popular was Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* when it was first heard in the Albert Hall by the oratorio-hungry English in 1883, that the composer was commissioned to write a new large-scale work for the Birmingham Festival. The result was, according to the *Illustrated London News*, a dramatic cantata "full of ghastly horror" called *The Spectre's Bride*. On Friday night, a Proms audience proved no less receptive to its chill and charm.

The tale is the northern European archetype of dead lover coming to claim fair maiden after years of absence. This young woman, realising that the last stop on their nightmare journey is the graveyard, sidetracks her gullible ghost, takes refuge in a charnel-house, struggles with corpses within and demons without and is saved by her faith.

Judith Howarth, warming to both the lunar beauty and Slav inflections of the two prayers to the Virgin, sang them stunningly. The shifting rhythms of the ballad's narrative pacing and its three-fold patterns of repetition were inspiring to both composer and performers. In a trinity of confrontations, the length of the Spectre's strides increases threefold at each stage of the journey; he snatches away prayerbook, rosary and cross; he tap, tap, taps at the window and knock, knock, knocks at the door. The stages of the night journey are lit by the most subtle scoring: tension mounts by means of rhythmic evolution and stacking harmonic sequences.

The USSR Ministry of Culture Chamber Choir and the BBC Symphony Chorus, under Genadi Rozdestvensky, shadowed and reinforced Peter Mikulas's stentorian narration with obvious delight. David Kuebler, as the Spectre, followed every stage of his spooky seduction: bending his tenor warmly and persuasively, and sniping in increasingly impatient rhythms. It was only a pity that no record company was on hand.

HILARY FINCH

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: EXHIBITION

## Fish tanks for the memories

Andrew Gibbon

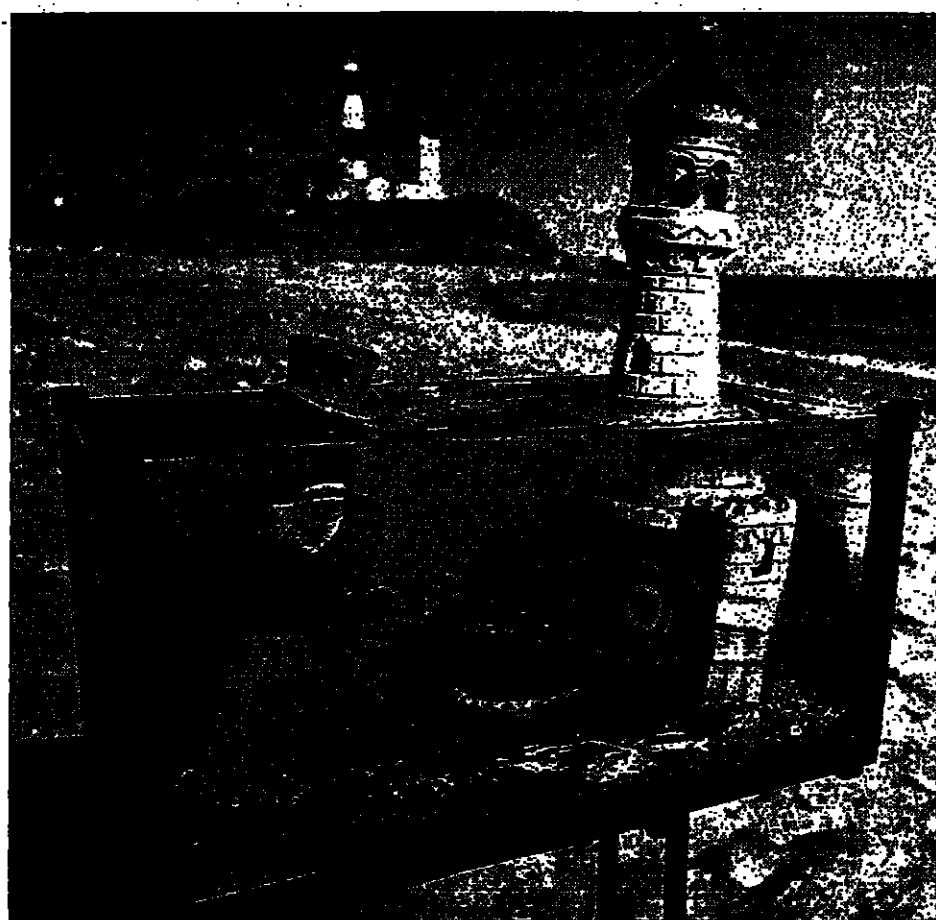
Williams on a photographic show of unusual narrative power

Photograph an empty fish tank and you can be guaranteed a visual yawn. But think of the fish tank as a stage set, arrange a tableau of kitsch Fifties' ornaments underwater within it, then photograph this aquatic mini-theatre on the seashore, and the image might well amount to something poetic.

Essentially, this is the method devised by New York photographer Arthur Tress, whose extensive series of still-life colour photographs, the surreal-sounding "Fish Tank Sonata", is the most intriguing photographic contribution to this year's Edinburgh International Festival. Tress is better known on this side of the Atlantic for his icy erotic studies of the male nude. Here, however, his material is more toy-town than adult bookstall. The show is eminently suitable for children, even though a depth of serious intent lurks beneath the bright colours and whimsy.

Tress chanced upon the theme for his Fish Tank project while he was spending some time in the Hudson River town of Catskill a few years ago. Catskill was the home of the 19th century painter Thomas Cole, a leading light of the Hudson River school. Cole's studio is now a museum, and it was there that Tress discovered a series of prints called "The Voyage of Life". These sentimental pictures chart the four ages of man, beginning with a child man, beginning with a child man, beginning with a child man, beginning with a child man.

His imagination fired by Cole's pictures, Tress began contemplating a reworking of the scene in photographic form. Back at his rented cottage he noticed a fisherman in a rowing boat and this gave him the idea of using the fisherman character as the equivalent of Cole's hero. He went on to expand this idea by imagining entire scenarios



Scenarios populated by easily collectable "fish-market trash": one of Arthur Tress's photographs from *Fish Tank Sonata*, at the Portfolio Gallery

populated by similar, easily collectable "fish-market trash" like the fisherman. But there was a problem: how was he to make the gaudy miniature material register in a landscape setting without the effect becoming trivial or ludicrous? He hit upon the idea of using an aquarium to contain his narratives, and the concept of the "Fish Tank Sonata" was born.

Tress is a natural storyteller so it is not surprising that he began by writing an adventure for his newly discovered, diminutive hero. It is a kind of odyssey — a voyage of self discovery in which the fisherman (guided by a bright red, talking snapper fish) discovers religion and the arts. As a result of his adventures he becomes more respectful of the environment and, consequently more successful. Each photograph is a kind of visual parable — an instalment in the fisherman's education — and Tress emphasises the im-

portance of his narrative by appending specially composed rhyming quatrains which commentate on the iconography and point up the meaning of each photograph.

Notwithstanding this complex literary programme however, it is the images themselves, the ingenious way they are contrived and their variety, that make Tress's photographs fascinating. In one of the most memorable, a death mask of Napoleon floats alongside an elaborate Paris-style street lamp, a pair of opera glasses and a shattered Sevres vase. Behind this Napoleonic tank rises up a mist-shrouded rocky hillside.

Not all of the photographs are so idyllic in flavour. In one which comments on the urban rat race, a mannequin of a briefcase-carrying office worker stumbles through debris of electrical circuits and knotted wire. In this photo-

graph, shiny office buildings form the backdrop.

Just how seriously one is meant to take Arthur Tress's eccentric photographic reveries is occasionally difficult to judge. Sometimes the content is contradicted by the tone: in one photograph, for example, a model of the sinking Titanic implies a sombre lesson for the fisherman, while the tone of the picture is bright and frivolous. It is at times like these that Tress's Pop Art mentality — a tongue-in-cheek attitude towards the past — overrides the nostalgic impulse which gives his photographs their real bite. For Tress, however, the potential for photographic narratives is limitless. He is forging ahead with "Requiem for a Paper Weight".

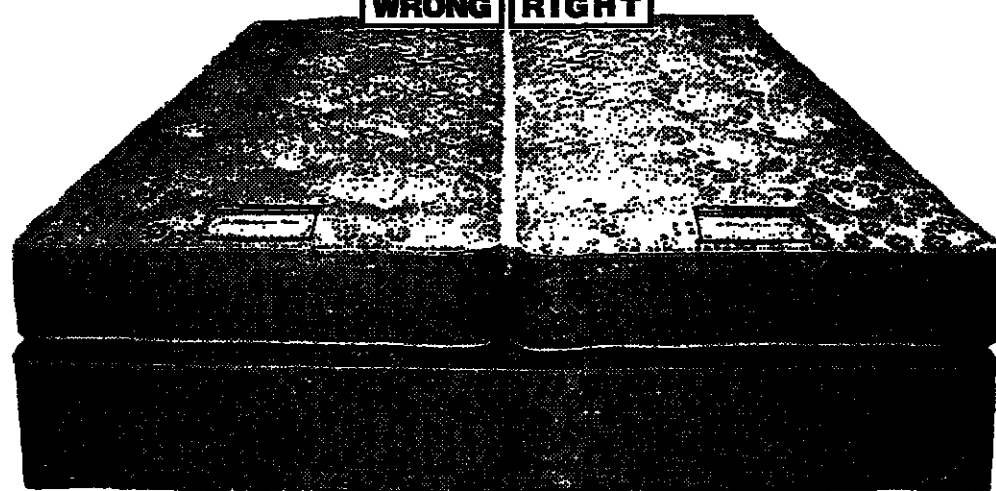
● Fish Tank Sonata, Portfolio Gallery, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh (031-220 1911). Mon-Sat 11am-5.30pm, until September 7.

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## Sarajevo awaits a gunshot

Bosnia senses war, says Anne McElvay

For a man whose shots started the first world war, Gavril Princip is remarkably popular in Yugoslavia. His mournful, walrus features stare out of postcards, and schoolbooks contain admiring accounts of his devotion to the Young Bosnia movement, in whose name he gunned down Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, on a state visit to Sarajevo. A cosy museum stands on the street corner where the 17-year-old student fired the bullets, and his pistol, bombs, and the telegram conveying Austria's declaration of war on Serbia are lovingly displayed inside. The general impression is that Sarajevo considers the unleashing of hostilities a fit subject for civic pride.

Princip's good name stems from the fact that the defeat of Germany and Austria in the ensuing war gave birth to Yugoslavia. His confession indicated that he was as much motivated by a desire to prove his bravery (he had been rejected by the Serbian army as too weedy) as by the good of Bosnia, but Yugoslavs now have more than one reason for disinterring the reputation of the faded hero.

The supporters of keeping Bosnia-Herzegovina, the republic that lies between Serbia and Croatia, whole and independent hark back to the autonomy sought by the Young Bosnians. The Serb supporters of carving up the republic into its constituent Muslim, Serb and Croat parts — thus giving generously to the territorial cause of Greater Serbia — recall that Princip was a Serb opposed to dominance by Vienna and Budapest, not to dominance by Belgrade.

Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, is once again bracing itself for the shot which would plunge it into a civil war. A political initiative, rather than a salvo, may spark the fighting, for the republic, the centre of the nation's ethnic patchwork, is the key to the future shape of Yugoslavia. Its people know that their lives are to be the human currency of any deal between republics.

Bosnia's Muslim leader, Alija Izetbegovic, is unnerved by the prospect of this people, who make up 44 per cent of Bosnia's population, being used as a human barricade to keep warring Croats and Serbs apart, and he has said that they will take up arms against any such plan. The Muslims fear the hearty territorial appetite of the Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic and the readiness of Croatia to do a deal with him, leaving them stranded. They were originally Christian heretics who fled to the region's mountains to avoid both Rome and the Orthodox church, converting to Islam for Ottoman protection. The Orthodox Serbs have not forgiven them. Few Muslims trust an enlarged Serbia to leave them alone, once they are prized away from the protection of Bosnia.

The region's long history of tolerance appears to be nearing its end. Bosnia's Muslim leaders are being driven to seek Arab support and are drifting towards fundamentalism. In the labyrinth of Sarajevo's souk, you can again glimpse veiled women. The authority of the mullahs is growing, the mosques are full. So, for that matter, are the Orthodox and Catholic churches: faced with the political pressure to align themselves, formerly secular Bosnians are running for religious cover.

The nascent peace movement based in Sarajevo has found strong support in a city fearful of its potential for self-destruction. Its motto, "One Minute to Twelve", heralds a desperate race against the spectre of Gavril Princip, once again brandishing the starting pistol of war.

Miscarriages of justice will not be rectified until there is a new system of appeal, writes Ludovic Kennedy

## Rarely seen to be undone



Another scandal? The case of Bentley, hanged in 1953, is to be reviewed

Sir Daniel Brabin found that while Evans was unlikely to have murdered his daughter, on which he had been convicted, he probably had murdered his wife, on which charge he had never been tried; that is, if there had been a miscarriage, it was only on a technicality.

In the Confit case Sir Henry Fisher found little to disturb the verdict of arson and murder against the three boys until some years later the attorney-general found himself obliged to tell the House of Commons that they had not been involved at all. Lewis Hawes, QC, found nothing wrong with James Hammett's conviction and execution in 1962, although there was a mass of evidence to show otherwise. After four years of thinking about it, Lord Hunter refused to give the innocent Patrick Meehan a clean bill of health for his conviction of murder, suggesting in his report that Meehan must have been involved in some way. (Meehan, like the dead Timothy

Evans, was granted what used to be quaintly called "a free pardon"). And despite the convincing evidence in the appeal court of the two in the Luton murder case and of the Guildford four in their first appeal, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Roskill respectively managed to turn blind eyes.

And so we come to the contemptuous (and contemptible) dismissal by Lord Lane of the 1988 appeal of the Birmingham six and to the grudging allowing of the Maguire's appeal by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and his colleagues with all its rubbish about a contaminated towel — another perfectly tailored exercise in damage limitation. No wonder that Michael Mansfield, QC, has

gone on record as saying that judges are notoriously unreliable when it comes to interpreting the facts. And now we have the 39-year-old case of Derek Bentley, hanged for murdering a policeman, sent for review by the home secretary last week.

How then are we to persuade the appeal court and those conducting enquiries into alleged miscarriages of justice to deliver judgments not grossly at variance with commonsense interpretation of the facts? Here is my proposal, which I will submit to the Runciman Commission.

Our system of criminal justice is based, as we are frequently told, on the lay element. "It is my duty," judges tell juries when they sum up, "to explain to you the

law, and it is your duty to reach a verdict according to the facts." (This of course does not prevent prejudiced judges like Lord Bridge at the original Birmingham six trial from giving their views about the facts, too, invariably supporting those of the prosecution. In America they are forbidden from doing this, and one hopes the Runciman Commission will recommend the same practice here.)

The lay element, however, begins and ends at the court of first instance. Why? If it is, as people say, one of our traditional safeguards against oppression, why not extend it to the Court of Appeal? Since the judges of the appeal court have taken it on themselves to make a judgment on the facts, instead of asking themselves what verdict the trial jury might have reached had it been able to assess the old and new evidence together, there seems every reason why it should be extended. If an appeal is based only on a point of law, there

would be no need for a lay element; but if it is concerned with the interpretation of new facts compared with the old, why not have a single judge sitting with two lay assessors?

Such assessors could be drawn from a pool of, say, solicitors, historians, accountants, any professional body whose work involves the sifting and judging of evidence. They would not only be a great deal more intelligent than the average jury, but also far less prejudiced than the average judge. Their judgments would not be distorted by an atavistic belief that if a wrong has been uncovered, it is best to cover it up and pretend it never happened or to maintain the mistake was only a bagatelle. This view, supported by such as Lord Denning ("if the Birmingham six had been hanged, we should have heard no more about them"), must no longer be allowed to prevail.

The judiciary will no doubt regard such a proposal as a gross infringement of their province. But with a record such as theirs, they are hardly in a position to complain. The author's collected writings, *Truth to Tell*, will be published by Bantam Press in October.

## Game of cribbage, anybody?

Bernard Levin on an international outbreak of plagiarism

I have been simultaneously amazed and amused at the recent outcrop of plagiarism, together with immensely solemn debates on the subject, in the United States. I say the recent crop advisedly, because it is by no means the first time that spirited recycling has come to light in that lovable but somewhat odd country. The most astonishing item in the catalogue was the contribution of Mr Joe Biden, who was seeking the Democratic nomination for president. (If you want to know the difference between American and British politicians there is an exquisitely hand-carved distinction: American ones "run" for office, ours "stand".)

Presumably, Mr Biden did not trust his own oratory to carry him to victory, and decided to borrow someone else's; so far so good — he had, after all, many great writers, thinkers and speakers to choose from, including Shakespeare, Socrates, Charles James Fox, Confucius, Tolstoy and Levin, not to mention Thomas Jefferson. Talking of Jefferson (today's column, as you may have already guessed, is going to be the discursive kind), do you know the most charming compliment ever paid to that great man? President Kennedy gave a dinner for the surviving American Nobel laureates — in science, medicine, literature and the promotion of peace — and in his speech said words to the effect that this must surely be the greatest concourse of genius in all fields ever brought together under the White House roof — "Except perhaps," he added, "when Thomas Jefferson dined alone."

Anyway, Mr Biden chose none of these sure-fire exemplars, but instead, in making a speech, waxed eloquent with the words of Neil Kinnock, so help me, who had just enough sense to say he was flattered and then shut up. That will be hard to beat; but the search goes on. The most recent spat began with an academic, a Mr Maitre, who was the dean of communications, what-

ever that might be, at Boston University. He was making a commencement address, which might be thought no great labour, nor indeed the kind of speech so likely to go down to history as to need close examination by a Sanhedrin of grammarians; someone, though, spotted a link, and Mr Maitre's shame was revealed: he had borrowed, without permission, parts of a magazine article by a film critic, one Michael Melved.

I have nothing against film critics — very many years ago I nearly became one — and the name of this particular celluloid-scrutiner was hitherto unknown to me. It did, though, strike me as odd — almost as odd as Mr Biden's fatal choice — that poor Mr Maitre, who in turn could have chosen from among Dostoevsky, Molière, Cervantes, Aristotle, St Thomas Aquinas and Levin, should seek inspiration from such a recondite source.

Then it got worse. The *Boston Globe*, reasonably enough — after all, the affair was in its purview — recounted the sad story of the fall of Mr Maitre, but gradually the news began to circulate more widely. The *Boston* correspondent of the *New York Times* therefore deemed it his duty to inform his own paper's readers of the exciting news, unfortunately, he took part of his dispatch verbatim from the original *Boston Globe* report, and was suspended, *sine die*, by his editor. Then it began to get like flying saucers: a single sighting led to half a dozen others, and before you know where you are you can't see the moon for the things. Another journalist, this one the *Washington Post*, has been sacked — no half-measures for the nation's capital — for lifting material from *The Miami Herald*. What makes this stage of the plagiarism epidemic even more weird than it was in the first place is the nature of the matter from which came the words *Herald* purloined: it consisted of



three articles about mosquitoes.

Now look: I am not much interested in mosquitoes, but I recognise that others may not share my indifference. But in the name of Johann Gutenberg how did the *Miami Herald* persuade itself that its readers were so besotted with the creatures that they wanted to read about them?

They did it, I suppose, by the same means as we all know, when the Japanese copy other countries' inventions they are not content to make replicas and leave it at that, pausing only to undercut the prices of the originals. No; they must improve on the product, and if you can think of a bigger improvement than what follows you ought to be a business instructor at Stanford.

The president of Japan's biggest news agency, the Kyodo News Service, has just resigned over a case of plagiarism. It was not, of course, the Kyodo president who did the plagiarising; he was merely doing the honourable thing of taking the responsibility for the actions of his staff, but the actions in question must have a claim on the title of the greatest

was called *Managing on the Edge* — *How the Smartest Companies Use Conflict to Stay Ahead*, and I can tell you that however they use it they certainly do not do so to save time on titles.

Sooner or later, I suppose, had to spread to Japan, but as we all know, when the Japanese copy other countries' inventions they are not content to make replicas and leave it at that, pausing only to undercut the prices of the originals. No; they must improve on the product, and if you can think of a bigger improvement than what follows you ought to be a business instructor at Stanford. The president of Japan's biggest news agency, the Kyodo News Service, has just resigned over a case of plagiarism. It was not, of course, the Kyodo president who did the plagiarising; he was merely doing the honourable thing of taking the responsibility for the actions of his staff, but the actions in question must have a claim on the title of the greatest

act of plagiarism in history. A writer specialising in health wrote a weekly article for the *Kyodo News Service* on the subject for 51 consecutive weeks, and just as he was sitting down to the 52nd and presumably pouring a celebratory drink for completing the year, it transpired that he had stolen the lot from a series that had appeared in a leading Japanese newspaper 17 years previously.

I suppose I have committed all but one of the many malfeasances that are possible with the use of a pen. Libel, contempt of court, gross inaccuracy, character assassination, barratry, incitement to violence, *lese-majeste*, breach of parliamentary privilege, grammatical error (rare, that one), corruption of youth, *scandalum magnatum* — I wouldn't be surprised if there was a forgotten forgery or two, or at

least a doctored will; but the one such sin that I have never succumbed to is the one of literary ventriloquism, or passing off the words of others as my own.

The reason has nothing to do with my upright and unblemished character. It is only because I have so much to say on my own account, and have so many opinions, and know so many words in which to give the said opinions, whether invited to do so or not, that the very thought of a need to borrow the words or ideas of others seems to me very comical. Incidentally, did you know that the word *plagiarism* comes from a Latin word, *plagiarius*, which means a kidnapper, hence a kidnapper of others' words?

I got that straight out of the *OED*. American papers please copy.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Not least among the disappointed love affairs of our lives are affairs with machines. I love trains, hopelessly.

No matter that it is plain to me that the concept of the railway is obsolete; plain that from the fatal flaw at its heart — when one train stops it is the devil of a business for the one behind it to stop in time, or get round it — all the horrors of signalling, shunting, points, personnel and trade-unionism; plain that the train's fate was sealed when they invented rubber tyres, steering wheels and asphalt, that all over the world railways lose money; that subsidies grow as we tip millions into the black hole of an impractical dream; and plain, finally, that the writing is on the wall. But I do not want to look at the wall. I just go on loving trains.

Turning my face from the truth, I try to route myself by train and the train keeps letting me down. Time and again I resolve to give the railway one last chance, finding excuses for its failure as one might for a lover about whom friends warned you from the start. I never learn.

So when on Wednesday my parents, who live in the Pyrenees, said they would meet me by car at Barcelona airport, I declined: there was a perfectly good train to Vich. It would take an hour. Ten kilometres short of Vich, climbing the valley on a single track, the electric loco failed.

The first thing that happens when something goes wrong with a train is that no decision is

taken, for ages. Drivers and guards walked up and down the track, very slowly, staring at the wheels. Have you ever seen a railwayman run? After an hour the conductor passed through the carriages and told us there was a delay. By now, passengers travelling to Toulouse with onward connections for Paris, Britain and Italy were going spare. Only I and the nun beside me were relaxed and in no hurry.

After two hours a diesel loco drew up behind, detached our carriage, and leaving our own engine blocking the track towed us backwards to the last station we had passed. Here a new set of railway officials waited, some blowing whistles, walking to and fro in earnest conversation. More trains kept arriving from Barcelona, piling up in the sidings, the disconsolate passengers joining us in the station yard. Some of the Italian women began to cry, as is their habit, while the Italian men tried unsuccessfully to wheedle the officials into special deals involving taxis for themselves and their companions, leaving the other passengers behind.

This continued for another hour. The nun grew tired. There being no seats she eyed a low, rubble-strewn wall. I spread out my old jacket on this for her. She blessed me, elaborately.

Now began the efficient episode. The station master, a jolly sub-Pavarotti-style man, telephoned a local coach operator and asked him to arrange a relay of buses. The delay before telephoning had been while he sought authorization for this,

quite possibly from Madrid.

Within a quarter of an hour, an operation reminiscent of Dunkirk swung into action. Apparently, unimpeded by the need for authorization from Madrid, the coach operator had augmented his own fleet by subcontracting to a variety of other busmen. A small flotilla of coaches and buses of every size and shape, all in their different liveries, swept into the station yard. There were green ones, orange ones and ones with blue stripes. One coach had a freeze of reindeer along the side. The whole fleet had been assembled in minutes by a handful of small busmen: their owner-drivers, some no doubt hauled from their dinners at a minute's notice, now doubling as porters, too, ran to load passengers' luggage.

It was decided that local passengers, like the nun and me, would be relayed to the station above the blocked track, while international passengers (already hopelessly late) would be taken straight to the French frontier. The Italians dried their eyes and began pushing in at the front of the queues.

The nun moved from the back of the queue for our own bus and emerged at its head, blessing the intervening passengers. Boarding, she smiled at the driver, who placed her in the front seat. She blessed him, too.

Pavarotti smiled jovially at an Italian waving her arms at him. "Why complain? Now you go by coach. Coaches are better, as everyone knows," he said.

Today I return to the airport. I think I'll give the train a try.

## From both sides now

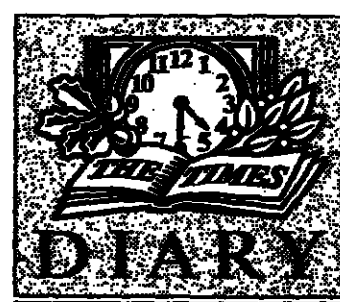
NEXT month's Liberal-Democrat conference may be overshadowed by public feuding between Lord Jenkins and David Owen, conducted from the gentlemanly offices of their respective publishers. Both are returning into print with their differing accounts of the demise of the SDP.

Jenkins's autobiography, *A Life at the Centre*, comes out on September 11, the day the Lib-Dem conference opens. It spares Owen little blame for the collapse of the SDP, and reveals the true extent of Jenkins's disputes with the doctor. Owen is expected to be equally frank about his former partner in *Time to Declare*, which comes out a few days later.

According to an early manuscript draft of Jenkins's book, due chapter, "What went Wrong?" is devoted to the demise of the SDP. Owen is attacked for a flirtation with Thatcherite policies towards the end of 1986, particularly on defence, which strained relations with Shirley Williams, the party president. Williams was not only unhappy at some of Owen's policy positions: she was also dismayed by his abrasive manner.

Jenkins confirms that there was little love lost between him and Owen, though they concealed the friction in public. But the disclosure that they only lunched alone together once in 1986, the year before the general election, will surprise even some of the SDP's most observant supporters.

He also attacks Owen for his attitude to the Liberal wing of the Alliance, regarded by Owen as a shambling lurch. But he reserves most of his anger for the way the parties were merged after the 1987 general election. Jenkins accuses Owen of a high-handed approach



at meetings of the SDP's ruling committee, and pillories him for allowing the argument over detail to drag on while the SDP was withering and dying.

However, Jenkins does say: "I certainly have positive things to say about Dr Owen. But my thoughts on him in the book are much like my observations of Harold Wilson. They were neither wholly positive nor wholly negative politicians. A bit like me, I suppose you could say."

But as everywhere these days, but rarely have they made so theatrical an entry as on Saturday night at Glyndebourne. Just as the vaults of hell were opening to engulf Don Giovanni, out of the darkness winged a large, unscripted bat to take two turns round the stunned auditorium. Was it indeed the spirit of the doomed Don, or of old Glyndebourne, in anticipation of its impending demolition and rebuilding?

## Eastward look

MICHAEL HESELTINE's plans for the construction of a new city of London begs the question: what should it be called? The environment department has officially pencilled in the name in a telegraph pole process. It means they have been cut down for the show, "Davidson says.

continental style would help us keep up with the French; and their ambitious Pas de Calais plans, they feel. Planners have officially dubbed the area the East Thames Corridor, but surely *Times* readers can improve on that? Suggestions on a postcard, please, and a bottle of champagne for the winner.

## Up sticks

WITH the exception of Birmingham Wood's ostensible trip to Dunsmuir, the first travelling wood in history arrives in Scotland next month as part of a theatre set. Some 40 larches are being shipped in to create an authentic set for Communicado Theatre's world premiere of *The One Gatherer*, an adaptation of Robin Jenkins's novel, to be performed in a marquee in Dingwall.

Gordon Davidson, the designer, rejected the option of artificial trees made of papier maché, chicken wire and plaster. "They are essential to the plot, so we felt we should have the real thing." The trees have been supplied with due consideration to



the environment. "We have been given trees which are one stage on in a telegraph pole process. It means they have been cut down for the show," Davidson says.

## Foreign exchange

AFTER more than 200 years, a dying wish of King Stanislaw of Poland may be fulfilled when part of the Dulwich picture collection goes on show in Warsaw. In 1790, the king asked Noel Desenfans, then owner of the works, to put together a collection for his new national gallery. But before the pictures could be shipped, the Polish monarchy had ceased to exist.

Now the Dulwich gallery has agreed to send over part of its collection, which includes works by Van Dyke, Rembrandt and Watteau. The scheme has the backing of Sir Robin Butler, the cabinet secretary, an enthusiast for both Dulwich, where he lives, and King Stanislaw. So keen is the mandarin that he donated his party hat to entertain leaders of industry at the Cabinet Office to raise money for the exchange.

## Poetic injustice

DEVOTEES of Gerard Manley Hopkins have just discovered that the room where the poet is supposed to have died of typhoid is now a public lavatory. Members of the International Gerard Manley Hopkins Society made the unfortunate discovery when they visited Newman House, where Hopkins spent his last years as professor of Greek literature at Dublin University.

Christine Casey, curator of the house, owned by the university, says: "The room was converted in 1939. We would love to restore it, but the replumbing would be too expensive." Hopkins wrote many notable poems in the room before he died (last words: "I am very happy"). Whether these included the following apposite lines history does not relate:

*Gush! — flush the man, the being it, sour or sweet Brim, in a flash, full!*





## AIDING THE OPPRESSED

The government's policy of cutting off development aid to Third World countries that deny their citizens basic democratic liberties may yet be the best Britain can do for those under despotic regimes. Britain has already urged the European Community to be more critical of the governments it aids. John Major will ask the Commonwealth to follow suit when he meets its leaders in Harare in October. Even the United Nations, long blind to the evils perpetrated within the borders of member states, recognises that human rights are the concern of the world, and that dictators cannot simply plead non-interference in their internal affairs.

Lynda Chalker, overseas development minister, spent the day at the weekend. Taxpayers have had enough of propping up brutal dictators. Money sent to governments that are corrupt, aggressive and unaccountable is money wasted. Errant regimes can no longer cloak their authoritarian tendencies in Marxist jargon or look to a superpower to bail them out.

For a long time Western liberals refrained from criticising brutality and oppression in the Third World for fear of being branded neo-colonialists. Governments have been equally pusillanimous, afraid of losing ostensibly "friendly" Third World leaders to the more cynical Soviet bloc.

President Carter was the first to stand up against such patronising cant. His crusade for human rights caused an outcry among diplomats and lobbyists who said it might lose America friends among the military dictators of Latin America. His campaign was described as naive, provocative, unworkable and an attempt to impose American values on non-American societies. But it was right and in the long run it worked. Human rights were the beacon that

rallied Eastern Europe. No American policy-maker now dares speak admiringly of "our sons-of-bitches" as military dictators were defended during the Cold War.

Mrs Chalker may be criticised for using "good government" to mask a cut in overseas aid. But she has fought for more money for those countries making a real effort to eliminate poverty, illiteracy and disease. And she has taken the bold, and still controversial, step of making military dictators pay for their arrogance, as the cuts in aid to Burma, Somalia and Sudan show. The policy is not without hazard. The criticism of Sri Lanka's human-rights record by the former high commissioner, David Gladstone, led to his expulsion. Britain vinced at this action by a Commonwealth country but rightly warned Colombo that all development aid is under review.

The expulsion of a high commissioner can be borne lightly. More difficult is whether a cut in aid will bring greater suffering to the people who are abused by their leaders. In the short term it will. Sudan's famine is not helped by Britain's refusal to allow engineers and spare parts to repair the crippled trains that could transport grain from the overcrowded port to the interior. However much money is siphoned off by corrupt dictators, targeted and supervised aid can speed the building of the dams, roads and veterinary centres that are so necessary to a country's recovery.

The answer lies in judging the long-term balance of benefit. Belgium tolerated the excesses of President Mobutu in Zaire for many years but has now cut off aid and recalled its advisers. The move has rallied the opposition and forced concessions by President Mobutu. The West must not assist bad governments.

## THE MEGASTORE MENACE

The decline of the British village shop began a century ago with the development of market towns and is continuing today. The threat comes from increased car and freezer ownership, from the growth of more sophisticated shopping in the high streets of big and small towns, the extension of traffic management and car parking, and above all from the spread of out-of-town hypermarkets and "malls". The local shop can struggle on as a part-time post office and newsagent, but can it really survive as little more than an emergency top-up service to the distant hypermarket?

Thirty years ago, England had 147,000 village shops. There are only 39,000 left. According to a report published last week by Verdict, a market research organisation, the outlook for specialist shops, such as butchers and bakers, in villages is bleak. General stores are only likely to survive if they can mop up custom from the closure of specialists and even then only by working punishing hours.

The primary responsibility for the fate of such shops lies with villagers themselves. Rural Britain is no longer poverty-stricken. The same people who lament the closure of their local shop are often those who make the ritual trip to the out-of-town Tesco, unload their ten carrier bags at home and use the village shop only for the forgotten packet of cereal.

Rural customers, according to Verdict, are twice as likely as city-dwellers to say that local shops are part of their community and understand their needs. Yet often they do not patronise such shops, any more than they patronise the school, the pub and the church whose closure they would also bitterly deplore.

Those who wish local services to stay local should use them as a first not a last resort. The villagers of Wootton Courtenay in Somerset are a fine example of community support at its most active. They have clubbed together to buy their village shop and now run it as a profitable co-operative. The residents of Little Bedwyn in Wiltshire have just done the same for their only pub. Such gestures will have little impact,

however, if planning does not respond. The most dramatic retail development of the 1980s was the rise of out-of-town shopping. In 1980, out-of-town stores took just 4.6 per cent of retail spending; by 1990, that figure had risen to 17.4 per cent. Neighbourhood shops were twice as badly hit as those in town high streets, but both suffered severely. The economies of scale that the big supermarket chains can muster have been increased still further by their expansion into huge retail developments.

Independent shops simply cannot compete. They do not have the muscle to force down "suppliers' costs". In Britain now, independent grocers take just 14 per cent of grocery sales, compared with over 70 per cent in Italy and Spain, and between 30 and 50 per cent in the rest of the EC. By 1990, there were 21 per cent fewer grocery outlets in Britain than there had been in 1982.

When planners are faced with applications for hypermarkets, they should consider not just the immediate convenience of the surrounding population, but the knock-on effects on town and village shops too, as well as the spoliation of the countryside and the pollution of additional car use. Many local residents who claim to want out-of-town shopping may change their mind in ten years' time when faced with the closure of shops in their high streets or villages — by which time it will be too late.

The purpose of sensible town and country planning is to smooth out the leads and lags in such development cycles, by refusing applications for hypermarkets in rural areas and restricting change of use to drive down retail rents. The British countryside is about to undergo a drastic economic change, in which an influx of daily, weekly or weekend commuters will play a crucial role. The village shop will have to change its character to meet this opportunity, in opening late and at weekends and offering goods — and services — that urban refugees want and are prepared to pay for. The same villages that complain about outsiders forcing up house prices must find in the newcomers' affluence their salvation.

## NAKED TRUTH

Michel Mouillot, the mayor of Cannes, is right to order a ban on toplessness in the streets and restaurants of his overcrowded town. The sight of half-naked holidaymakers tucking into their lunchtime bouillabaisse at the quayside bars is enough to dull the healthiest of appetites. Bare breasts on the beaches will remain virtually compulsory. Elsewhere, half-naked tourists will be fined 75 francs.

M. Mouillot believes that his ban will boost the efforts by Cannes to project to the world an image of elegance and sophistication. This is an ambition he shares with many Mediterranean resorts which have found that the "down-market" tourism which they courted assiduously over the past 30 years no longer lays golden eggs. Indeed it encourages lager tourism and deters high-spending middle classes. Like them he is probably too late.

Cannes, like most of the once-pretty fishing villages of France's Côte d'Azur and Spain's Costa del Sol, has been turned into a choking agglomeration of concrete holiday flats and streets overwhelmed by motor cars. Pause for a *pastis* beside the port and conversation is drowned by the roar of motorcycles while the view is blocked by the bus station.

Cannes is no longer a pretty place. Nor is St. Tropez, whose most famous resident, Brigitte Bardot, has declared that vice, lewdness and exhibitionism have become the "sad and degrading" symbols of her home town. The charge might seem rich

from a star of French movies of the 1950s. The developers and politicians who turned these seaside resorts into congested towns are realising that they have destroyed the charm that originally drew tourists. The well-heeled people they once attracted are repelled by the resorts' ugliness, noise and vulgarity. Bare flesh paraded on the *croisette*, far from proving erotic, merely exposes the bodily imperfections of the current crop of visitors. However well intentioned, M. Mouillot's cover-up campaign will not conceal that his town is simply another mass-market resort of short-term indulgence.

Ever since Lord Brougham stayed in Cannes, the British middle classes have been among Europe's most adventurous travellers. Once a place is discovered and overrun by the masses, they move on. These discriminating and usually prosperous souls have for years shunned the crowded resorts of the Var coast and now head for the rural villages of Tuscany and Provence and the valleys of the Dordogne and Garonne. There they struggle to enact brief fantasies of life as rustic peasants as once they enacted those of Homeric fishermen. Nothing the mayor can do will bring them back.

Yet woe betide these inland havens, where modesty, tranquillity and the pleasures of the table still reign. Let their hotels become too large, their orchards and vineyards fill with self-catering villas, or their dress in the market square be too immodest and the crowds will follow.

## 'Iniquities' of the A-level status quo

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde

Sir, Your leader today (August 15) on the iniquities of the A-level examination system is to be commended. As the undesirable consequences of premature specialisation become evident to all, the need to follow where other countries (including Scotland) have already led will at last dawn on those stubborn defenders of the status quo.

They have, of course, something to defend, and they will continue doing so to the bitter end. The cosy convenience of the present arrangement suits them well. Preparation for success in A levels is a rewarding and even profitable business, easily camouflaged as devotion to standards and best academic practice.

The need to broaden post-16 courses and *inter alia* to delay the dropping of science is by comparison, of little interest. Even, therefore, with *The Times* now on the side of the reformers, it is still too early to celebrate the demise of this pernicious examination.

The eventual broadening of post-16 examinations and curricula is, of course, not the end of the story. The present English first degree is equally open to the objection that it too invites unnecessary early specialisation. For most intending undergraduates the narrowing of choice at 18 is hardly more excusable than limiting choice at 16.

Almost all civilised countries encourage proper specialisation at the postgraduate level. There is no hurry to be expert. Ask any doctor or lawyer.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM HILLS,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Strathclyde,  
Glasgow G1 1XQ.

From Mr Maxwell Laurie  
Sir, I see from your analysis today of this year's GCE A-level results that the lowest proportion of A and B grades are in business studies and of A, B and C grades in business studies and computing. What price our recovery from the next recession?

Faithfully yours,  
MAXWELL LAURIE,  
14 Harding Road,  
Chesham, Buckinghamshire,  
August 15.

From Mr William Allen  
Sir, Some students greet their A-level results with elation, some with sadness. The latter might draw some comfort from a remark made to me some years ago by an eminent American professor of engineering with whom I was discussing the unreliability of exam results as a guide to success in later life.

"I can sum up your view quite simply for you", he finally said, "for the fact is that our grade As tend to become academics while our grade Bs end up working for our grade Cs".

Perhaps our prime minister could usefully mail that one over with his secretary of state for education too. Yours faithfully,  
WM ALLEN,  
The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

## Pupils' poverty

From Mr Darren A Court

Sir, Digby Anderson's point ("Budget lesson", Education Notebook, August 12) about the contribution made by schools to the future poverty of their pupils needs expanding. While I recognise he is saying that "schools are [only] partly to blame", I believe that he is looking for a scapegoat for ensuing degrees of poverty in our society.

We need to recognise that the teaching of budgeting and/or household finance is no way to attempt to tackle poverty, which is a state of existence, structured by various facets of society. Education is one of

these: lack of it, in the form of lack of marketable credentials, is a major contributory factor to future poverty for individuals.

But, having said that, a smattering of home economics does not facilitate the tackling of structured dependency (on a fading welfare state) to any significant level. It is, in effect, a kind of distraction: it gives the impression that something positive can be achieved, but the reality is far more deeply ingrained than such a superficial approach will recognise.

Yours faithfully,  
DARREN A COURT,  
8 Fillymead, Marnhill,  
Nr Sturminster Newton, Dorset,  
August 12.

From Dr J. B. McCaw  
Sir, As one who took A levels in the sciences over 30 years ago in preparation for medical school I applaud your leading article of August 15.

Cessated formal education in the arts, languages and literature at the age of 16, yet the challenges of my profession are not purely scientific. In contrast, my two daughters being educated in Canada received courses in a wide range of subjects until the end of their first university year; indeed one of them, having taken her BSc, was able to enrol in a third year arts programme after only a few additional courses (a degree programme takes four years in Canada).

What a pity that young people in Britain should be so limited in their future career options and interests by a test requiring total specialisation at a very young age.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MCCAW,  
2674 Orchard Avenue,  
Victoria,  
British Columbia, Canada.

From Miss J. Lory  
Sir, When I begin the sixth form in September I shall be studying mathematics, physics and chemistry at A level. I owe this to the fact that my high school is one of a shrinking minority of schools which offer the three sciences (chemistry, physics and biology) as separate subjects at GCSE.

Had I gone to the local comprehensive I would have had to choose between single science (which can only hope to skim the surface of each science and would not have given me the knowledge to take any science at A level) and double science (which would only cover two thirds of the material in the individual syllabuses and would surely leave me poorly equipped for a science course at A level).

Maybe this is part of the reason for the shortage of A-level candidates in these subjects.

Yours faithfully,  
J. LORY,  
95 Roundway,  
Waterlooville, Hampshire.

these: lack of it, in the form of lack of marketable credentials, is a major contributory factor to future poverty for individuals.

But, having said that, a smattering of home economics does not facilitate the tackling of structured dependency (on a fading welfare state) to any significant level. It is, in effect, a kind of distraction: it gives the impression that something positive can be achieved, but the reality is far more deeply ingrained than such a superficial approach will recognise.

Yours faithfully,  
DARREN A COURT,  
8 Fillymead, Marnhill,  
Nr Sturminster Newton, Dorset,  
August 12.

## North Kent at bay

From Mr Peter K. Lawrence

Sir, Knock, knock, it's the demolition man! Jonathan Meades' view of the North Kent coast (Saturday Review, August 10) is selective and unfair. Did he not stand on Gravesend promenade to see the fine vista of the Thames or watch the sun setting over the marshes?

The north Kent coast is not conventionally pretty, but as the historic home of industries such as paper and cement-making, and as an ancient gateway to London by water, it has its own fascinating character. There are lovely old churches of flint, colourful pubs, Tudor fortifications and fine views.

I suggest Mr Meades re-visit the area with a less jaundiced eye (but without revealing his name to local *Times* readers).

Yours faithfully,  
PETER K. LAWRENCE,  
Pan's Patch, Morley Road,  
Weald,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.

## Rank ignorance

From Mr B. H. Parker

Sir, It is not unknown for modes of address to be distorted deliberately in order to raise the status of the recipient (letters, August 2, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16).

However, to accord the ultimate elevation is going a touch too far. Recently I received a letter addressed to "The Creator".

Yours omnipotently,  
BRIAN PARKER,  
Curator of Laboratories,  
Britannia Royal Naval College,  
Dartmouth,  
Devon,  
August 13.

## Striking a balance on Third World aid

From the Secretary General of the UN Conference on Environment and Development

Sir, In your leading article, "Environment and hot air" (August 12), you express strong criticism of my approach to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. This seems to be based on your view that I am insisting that "the industrialised nations commit themselves to environmental aid transfers to the developing world 'in the hundred billion dollars a year category'".

This reflects a misunderstanding of my position on the needs of developing countries, and the ways those needs could be met. If developing countries are to make the transition to environmentally sound and sustainable patterns of development, their needs are indeed likely to be of this order of magnitude. But it would be clearly unrealistic to expect these needs to be met by mere increases in traditional aid transfers.

Most developing-country needs must be met by redeployment and more effective use of their own resources. But they will also have to have access to substantially increased external resources over time if their current outflow of resources is to be stemmed and their economies revitalised on an environmentally-sustainable basis.

This must include increased private investment, improved terms of trade and debt relief as well as concessional assistance. Such measures are surely in the interest of the entire world community.

Rhetoric or exhortation cannot accomplish this. It will only happen if industrialised and developing countries alike realise that it is in their common interest to join in forging a new global partnership, based on mutual needs and shared responsibilities.

The case for this is a strong and compelling one, in environmental as well as economic and security terms. Making this case in the most

cogent and persuasive manner is our principal task and the key to the success of the "Earth summit" in Rio.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE STRONG,  
Secretary General,  
United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,  
160 Route de Florissant,  
CH-1231 Conches, Switzerland.

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, You state that Mr Maurice Strong "is being worse than unrealistic" in his demands on the industrialised nations for environmental aid transfers. You might note some long-standing economic practices by these nations in this sphere — on international debt, for instance.

When we take account of all foreign aid and development loans from the North to the South, and balance that against debt interest and capital payments from the South to the North, we find that developing nations currently transfer a net amount of around \$50 billion a year to the industrialised nations.

According to the World Bank, trade restrictions on the part of industrialised nations cost developing nations some \$100 billion a year in revenues foregone through potential export of manufactured goods, a sum almost twice the amount of foreign aid dispensed by industrialised nations.

Agricultural subsidies on the part of industrialised nations militate against agricultural exports from developing nations worth \$30 billion a year. Ironically, an end to these agricultural subsidies would help develop-nation economies too: a 3 per cent gain in GDP for Germany and a \$42 billion improvement in the US balance of trade.

Are these financial transfers not "worse than unrealistic" in a world that you agree is thoroughly interdependent?

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN MYERS,  
Upper Meadow, Old Road,  
Headington, Oxford.

## Limits on barter

From Mr M. J. Kay

Sir, Somewhat disappointingly, your otherwise sound leader of August 15 on freeing those in captivity in the Middle East ("Where barter must stop") tends to perpetuate the sort of myth about international law which at least the events of the last 12 months should have dispelled. I don't like those who hold the innocent to ransom — but I like an enduring whiff of hypocrisy even less.

By hoisting the name of international law like some crusader's banner, you have made no concession to Islam's centuries-old track record as an international system. Indeed, you almost appear to imply that those in the Middle East with a fundamental faith in Islam remain somehow beyond the pale — while we in the West, on our platform of international law, are within it.

International law is an intensely political creation, with a not conspicuously credible history — a

history which, if I may draw upon you leader's description of hostage-taking and hijacking, is also replete with violations in order to score political points.

It might instead be constructive to acknowledge the efforts of, for example, the government of Iran to bring the principles of a faith which emphasises the "true path" into some sort of workable harmony with the West's expectations of today's world. The adjustment, please note, is on their side of the house — it has to be, in view of our military and technological superiority.

But this is a time for true compromise. Secretary General Pérez de Cuellar may well work within the shadow of the UN charter — but that supreme statement of international law, and all that stems from it, has no relevance to what we hope he will achieve now.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN KAY,  
8 Elm Grove,  
Swainswick, Bath, Avon,  
August 15.

## Christians on crusade

From Mr Alexander Murray

Sir, According to Clifford Longley (article, August 10) "nothing disfigures the history of the Christian crusades against Muslim possession of Palestine more than the failure of a single Christian figure to cry 'No!' to those wars and massacres".

Throughout the crusading movement there were Christians who cried "No!" — on arguments covering most of the usual range, and broadly analogous to those inspired by the recent Gulf war, except (as I recall) the environmental.

The aim of the crusades was more

complicated. They were conceived in 1074 less because of the "Muslim possession of Palestine" (a fact of life four centuries old by then) than because Seljuk Turks from central Asia, recent converts to Islam, had conquered Byzantine Anatolia, threatened the existence of the eastern Roman Empire, and destabilised the Levant. Hitherto indulgent Arab authorities were thus no longer able to vindicate safe-conducts to Christian pilgrims.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDER MURRAY,  
University College,  
Oxford, OX1 4BH,  
August 15.

## Courtly gesture

From the Reverend M. Turnham Elvins

Sir, On August 14 you published a photograph of two Austrians dressed as medieval knights on their way from Durnstern (not Dumstern, with respect) to Buckingham Palace to apologise for the imprisonment, by their countrymen, of Richard I in 1193.

While I applaud such sentiments I hasten to remind these gentlemen that, in order to free King Richard, my collateral ancestor, Robert de Turnham, had the task of raising 150,000 marks in ransom money (*Dugdale's Baronage*, 1.662).

This was an enormous sum at that time. Some token compensation would not go amiss.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
MARK T. ELVINS,  
Corpus Christi Church,  
The Priest's House,  
Tanyard, Henfield, Sussex.

## To be continued . . .

From Mr Duncan Minshall

Sir, In *The Times* of August 15, Philip Howard notes the loss of the 15-minute *Morning Star* in Radio 4's new schedule changes. He failed to state that a new series, *Short Story*, will replace it from September 16, to be broadcast at 4.45 pm on each week day. There is also an increase from four to five short stories each week on Radio 4.

With an average of two short stories per week broadcast on Radio 3, many of them original writing, and with at least 252 short stories transmitted yearly on Radio 4, BBC Radio remains one of the chief supporters of the genre.

Yours faithfully,  
DUNCAN MINSHALL,  
(Short story editor, BBC Radio),  
Broadcasting House, W1,  
August 15.

From the Right Reverend David Leake

Sir, When first appointed as Assistant Bishop in Argentina I was once addressed as "The Ass Bishop". Later, on my appointment as diocesan bishop, this was rectified to "The Right Bishop".

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID LEAKE,  
As from: The Anchorage,  
East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk.

From Sir John Layte

Sir, A letter has just reached me starting "Dear Sir Layte". Depressing, but premature.

Yours presently,  
JOHN LATEY,  
16 Daylesford Avenue, SW15.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071 782 5046).











# Dictator who avoids the axe

ROBBIE JACK



Valer Delakeza (above) as Ma Ubu and Die Gheorghe as her husband

stupid grins. Dead, they live. Let's hope their Romanian counterparts prove less immortal.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## THEATRE

### Ubu Rex with Scenes from Macbeth Empire

#### EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

MACBETH is a morally upstanding, emotionally complex, and a little bit evil, only to watch himself being slowly destroyed by it. Ubu Rex, on the other hand, is a greedy boy and egomaniac who from the start takes a coarse delight in plunder and murder. No wonder, then, that this picture of political chicanery, coming as it does from Romania, has the tilt indicated by the title. "The action takes place in Poland," says the narrator. "That is to say nowhere, but nowhere is everywhere and may be the country where you are right now." Back home, the National Theatre of Craiova's audiences can hardly have doubted his meaning.

Little else is said or done to press the parallel between the Ubus and the Caesars, but then little else needs to be. She is the first to appear in Valer Delakeza's transgressive performance a frowzy pantomime dame with a hectoring voice and a wheelbarrow to push. From this there stumbles what might be a bloated baby and might be a huge egg. It is like George's oval-shaped Ubu in a white body-suit, come to crawl round the stage and, prodded by his improbable wife, to enslave the people, steal the wealth and raze the villages of Poland.

All this he proceeds to do with narcissistic glee: a blend of Humpty Dumpty and a depraved cherub, with brownish lips which seem always

either open in bewilderment or fixed in a fat, self-satisfied smirk. The question implicitly asked by Silviu Purcarea's production is how can this ludicrous tot command so much power? The answer is, of course, that he behaves towards Poland rather as an unscrupulous infant treats the breakfast room, in effect splattering the walls with liquidised beef and hammering passing adults with his rattle. Since he also has his personal Securitate in the form of three heavies in dark glasses, the deference of the rest of the cast is not really surprising.

These are an odd lot. In their bonnets and ill-fitting grey suits, they look like porters or maybe patients in an ancient lunatic asylum, and bring a wonderfully rusty gusto to the evening. They scurry about the bare stage, cheering and saluting and at one hilarious point putting on tin hats and parading with wheelbarrows in a parody ("what a magnificent spectacle") of some East European Trooping the Colour. Indeed, the only major critical doubt is whether the brief interpolations from *Macbeth* justify themselves.

These begin halfway through, and seem to be a rudimentary entertainment for the Ubus, who are now podgily ensconced in the front stalls. But just as Macbeth raises a vast battle-axe over Duncan, who sits veiled in a wheelchair, Ubu yells "lights on", and, like Claudius in *Hamlet*, dashes out of the theatre. From here things get even crazier and more confused. We are informed that Ubu actually wrote the plays mistakenly attributed to Shakespeare. This does not, however, enable him to resist what appears to be the arrival of Birnam Wood in Wroclaw. He dies while Macbeth continues to dash about with his battle-axe. Don't ask

Another Tremblay trademark is technical inventiveness. The play is constructed in the form of two parallel conversations, one between the daughters, Marion and Carmen, and the other between Leonard and his wife Marie-Lou. These move between the present (when Marion and Carmen are in their twenties), the past as it was ten years before, and the past a few years before that: they are conducted simultaneously but only once or twice, in the distant past, do they meet. If that sounds complicated, in practice it is not; the characterisations are clear and the timeshifts carefully signalled.

Elie Dicken's Marie-Lou is a construct of sarcasm, martyrdom and two knitting-needles: an apparently

innocent victim who gradually reveals a sadistic and perhaps suicidal need to push her disturbed husband over the edge.

The two daughters are a rather obvious pair: the virginal, religious Marion blaming her misery on the burden of the past, and the good-time Carmen opting for short-term satisfaction singing in a seedy pub. But the body language of Suzie Wilson and Sarah Campbell could hardly be better contrasted. John Binias's direction makes the most of the black humour; I just wish Tremblay had not spelled everything out quite so explicitly, and had allowed conversation to crystallize into action.

HARRY EYRES

## THEATRE

### Forever Yours, Marie-Lou Hen And Chickens, Islington

THE mother, father and two daughters in this bitter comedy by Michel Tremblay are prime candidates for family therapy. Unfortunately it is years too late for the attentions of Dr Robin Skynner: by the time the play opens, dad has already taken mum and son for a spin into a concrete wall. Tremblay is French Canada's best-known contemporary playwright, a writer who has given a voice to the Francophone Quebecois working

classes. There is nothing specifically Canadian about Fat Red. Theatre's production of this intense if unsensible play, though a poor Catholic background is established by twin shrines, one to Jesus (with a little illuminated cross), the other to the god Heinz (a selection of tinned food in a glass cabinet).

Tremblay really knows about the effects of grinding poverty, and can write with a humour that squabbles over peanut butter. When the father, Leonard (a bald, scowling Noel Hill), delivers a tirade about the misery of a regular job - "that machine's been watching you for 20 years, waiting for you to make a mistake" - you feel that every nut and bolt has been printed on his mind.

## Brecon Festival Wales

THOUGH the Welsh rugby team may be in the doldrums, national pride was restored at Brecon, where the annual jazz festival has a strong claim to be the best in Britain. The rural setting is an important factor, with virtually all of the events within a few minutes' walk of each other, and the programme director, Jed Williams, has done very close work with the various factions, from Dixieland fanatics to devotees of the avant-garde. An event where Cecil Taylor can appear alongside Leon Redbone and Bob Wilber is one to be cherished. Above all, the emphasis is on leisurely enjoyment: jazz, in Brecon, is a form of entertainment, not an exercise in municipal power-dressing or a musical sermon.

There is one problem that remains to be solved: what to do about the minority of young people who are more interested in indulging in all-day drinking than listening to music. Permanently attached to a life-support system of cider, beer and wine, they stagger from one pub to the next like a lost legion from a rock festival. Though I saw no serious incidents

on the first two days of the festival, the sullen, boozy atmosphere became oppressive after dark. What to do about it? Close all the pubs and off-licences? Make the town off-limits to anyone who cannot spell Bix Beiderbecke? There seems to be no easy solution.

Away from the streets, the concerts offered all sorts of incidental pleasures. Many of the big names had passed through London in recent months; this was an opportunity to catch some of the lesser-known performers, such as the 12-piece ensemble, Kustbaert, from Sweden, and the Dutch carnival band, Krukkie. Playing in the incongruous surroundings of a *Crossroads*-style motel, the Swedes fashioned a scrupulous recreation of a dance band from the Twenties and Thirties. Delving into the Fletcher Henderson and Luis Russell repertoires, they matched musical integrity with a welcome sense of humour. There were no traces of Scandinavian melancholy here, especially in the pithy solos from the trumpet section. Krukkie, whose anarchic stage presentation evoked shades of Loose Tubes, tore through an exhilarating set in the town centre. Relying on sheer force of numbers rather than instrumental finesse, they cranked up the excitement with unabashed solos into rock 'n' roll. Meanwhile in the main venue, the

Market Hall, the Rebirth Brass Band repeated their recent success in London. Half the population of Brecon appeared to take up their invitation to invade the bandstand. The concert will be televised on BBC 1 next Monday.

Friday night belonged to the all-star showcase led by Ruby Braff, Kenny Davern and Scott Hamilton. This was the gathering that many festival-goers were waiting for. In the event, however, it was a sense of anti-climax, in part because Braff and Hamilton, together only at the very end of an over-extended evening, Hamilton appeared first, playing in a one-guitar band with pianist Dave McKenna and Mike Hanna. Braff followed with his trio, playing as elegantly as ever, before giving way to a set by Davern and the octogenarian Yank Lawson.

All thoroughly professional, of course, but not ideally suited to such a large hall. By the close there was time only for a brief jam session - in which Davern failed to take part - the players doing their best to sound spontaneous on "Muskrat Ramble" and "Ain't Misbehavin'". Braff's trio, fortunately, was due to reappear the following afternoon, one of four concerts to be screened on BBC 2 between September 2-5.

CLIVE DAVIS  
Arts features, page 11

## 16 REVIEWS

### NEW RELEASES

**ELVIRA MADGAN** (PG): Bo Waters' 1957 classic about an army officer's summer idyll with a circus girl. Vacuum-sealed drama, but a milestone in cinematic artifice. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**NA-ED TANGO** (18): Vice, depravity and tango dancing in 1930s Buenos Aires. Kinky stylistic exercise from writer-director Leonardo Schrader. Starring Mercedes May, Vincent D'Onofrio. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**PARIS TROUPE** (18): Dennis Hopper's searing Southern racist stands accused of murder. Powerful, atmospheric drama from director John Dahl. With Hopper, Hopper, Ed Harris, director. Stephen Gaghan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**TERMINATOR 2: JUDGMENT DAY** (15): Good robot Arnold Schwarzenegger battles bad robot Robert Patrick. A fine showcase for special effects. Director, James Cameron. With Linda Hamilton. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**THE CARETAKER** (PG): Donald Pleasence in Peter's dark house between a tramp and two brothers. Comedy. Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 2pm. Sat, 8pm. 15mins.

**CARMEN JONES** (PG): A production of the Hammer/BBC at the Royal Opera House. With Pavarotti. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**DANCING AT LUGHANSA** (PG): Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning play about a young man in 1930s Donegal. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 2pm. 15mins.

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### CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.**

**COPTAGE** (17-12-5005) Whiteleys (071-792 3324).

**TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY** (PG): Greville Julliard Stevenson with his wife to a kidnapping plot. Atmospheric thriller from John Thompson. With Hopper, Ed Harris, director. Stephen Gaghan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**AFTER DARK, MY SWEET** (18): Tomerikoff's director (Jason Patric) wanders into a kidnapping plot. Atmospheric thriller from John Thompson. With Hopper, Ed Harris, director. Stephen Gaghan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**EDWARD SCISSORHANDS** (PG): The director's exploration of a boy with scissors for hands at large in American suburbia. With Johnny Depp, Demi Moore, director. Stephen Gaghan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II: THE SECRET OF THE OOZE** (PG): Live-action turtles fighting evil in New York. With Michaelangelo, director. Stephen Gaghan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER** (18): Devastating, fly-on-the-wall study of a serial killer. With Michael Keaton, director. Stephen Gaghan. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

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### THEATRE GUIDE

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London**

**HOUSE FULL, RETURNS ONLY** @ Seats at all prices

**Barbican** (see above) Tonight, tomorrow, 7pm, 22mins.

**MACBETH** (PG): Peter Egan and Richard Briers in straightforward production of Shakespeare's Renaissance tragedy. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

**THE PHILANTHROPIST** (PG): A production of the BBC. With John Wood. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

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Hamilton: attempts at spontaneity

### WORD-WATCHING

**GRIP** (c) The ancient raven who constantly accompanies Barnaby Rudge "Not in a hop, or walk, or run, but in a pace like that of a particular gentleman with exceedingly tight boots on, trying to walk fast over loose pebbles."

**BOLDWIG** (c) Captain Boldwig, landowner near Dingley Dell, who finds Pickwick sleeping off the effects of punch on his land and consigns him in a wheelchair to the pound.

**NED** (c) Chimney-sweep who kept his son small, for hiring out on burglary jobs with Bill Sikes. "But the father gets bigger; and then the Juvenile Delinquent Society comes and takes the boy away from a trade where he was earning money."

**WHIFFERS** (b) A Bath footman, present at the footmen's voice in Pickwick, who announces his resignation from his employer because he has been made to eat cold meat: "He had a distinct recollection of having once consented to eat salt butter."

**ENTERTAINMENTS**

**OPERA & BALLET**

**THEATRES**

### WINNING MOVE

**By Raymond Kene, Chess Correspondent**

This position is from the game Karpov vs. Kasparov, USSR 1987. Black has a dangerous passed pawn on h3. How did he make the most of it?

**ALBERT** (PG): A production of the BBC. With John Wood. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 8661).

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### PETER HALL

**COMPANY PLAYHOUSE**

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**Forever Yours, Marie-Lou Hen And Chickens, Islington**

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## BBC 1

- 6.00** *Ceeba* 5.30 *BBC Breakfast News*  
**9.05** *Around the World with Why Fog* (r) 9.35 *Why Don't You...?*  
**10.00** *News*, regional news and weather **10.05** *Playdays* (r) **10.25** *Muppet Babies*. Animated adventures with the infant puppets (r)  
**11.00** *News*, regional news and weather **11.05** *Peaseblossom Kingdom*. Animal drama starring Lindsay Wagner as the director of a Los Angeles zoo **11.55** *The History Man*. Bryan McNamery visits the gardens of Galsworthy near Garshead, created in the early 1700s by George Sowerby, now sadly neglected  
**12.00** *News*, regional news and weather **12.05** *The Garden Party*. Today's action includes a discussion on whether women are safer drivers than men. *Glynis Christian* hosts a German coffee morning. David Bellamy finds out when a weed is not a weed. John Mortimer reflects on the realities of *Rumpole of the Bailey* and Pam Ayres recites a poem on summer **12.55** *Regional News* and weather  
**1.00** *One O'Clock News* and weather **1.30** *Neighbours*. (Ceeba)  
**1.50** *The O'Clock Kitchen Garden* (r). (Ceeba) **2.20** *Stanley and Maude*. *Stanley*, Paul Merton's character and David Soul are the crime fighters, this week going to the rescue of a good natured dame who becomes an ideal pawn for a racketeer.  
**3.05** *The Hogan Family*. American sitcom **3.30** *The George Formby Story* (r).  
**4.10** *The New Lease*. The cenny canine discovers an ancient Indian burial site. (Ceeba) **4.35** *Defenders of the Earth*. Animation (r).  
**4.55** *News* and weather **5.05** *The Lowdown: Today I Am A Man*. Two 13-year-old Jewish boys explain the significance of their barmitzva ceremonies (r). (Ceeba)  
**5.35** *Neighbours*. (r). (Ceeba) Northern Ireland: *Sporadic*. **5.40** *Inside Ulster*.  
**6.00** *5.30 O'Clock News* with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart.  
**6.30** *Regional News* and weather. Northern Ireland: *Neighbours*.  
**7.00** *Wogan* with Ron Moody and music from *Sonia*. There is also a discussion on post-traumatic stress disorders.  
**7.30** *Them and Us*. This week actor and gay rights campaigner Sir Ian McKellen travels to the Isle of Man, where you can still be imprisoned for being homosexual. (Ceeba)  
**8.00** *Dear John*. Gentle comedy about a newly-divorced man, shown in tribute to the late Ralph Bates (r). (Ceeba)  
**8.30** *Brush Strokes*. Lame sitcom about a painter's unsatisfying brushes with romance. Starring Karl Howman (r). (Ceeba)  
**9.00** *5.30 O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Ceeba) *Regional News* and weather.  
**9.30** *Panorama*. In the final programme about the Gulf war, Steve Bradshaw talks to the top Allied commanders and politicians responsible for Operation Desert Storm, among them US secretary of defence Dick Cheney, Tom King and Mrs Thatcher's personal secretary Charles Powell.

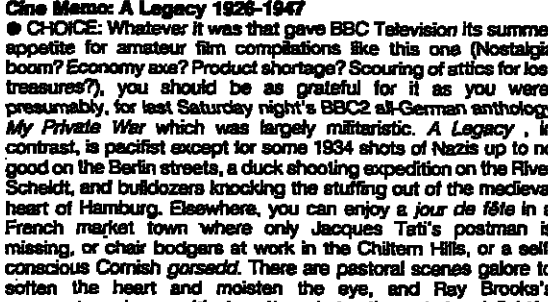


Fictional murders: the sour-mouthed law enforcers (10.10pm)

- 10.10** *Law and Order: Murders*.  
 ● *CHOICE*: With New York hit by six child killings in a week, it's small wonder the city cop muses about: "At this rate, we're going to have a worse mortality rate than Ethiopia". This is a sour line, and it is a sourly delivered as indeed, is most of the dialogue in this episode of the crime and courtroom series that satanically refuses to take a flip on either law or order. "No one seems to have a verbal altercation any more", another police officer says tonight – a classic understatement given that the city's murder toll has risen yet again. *Murders* is a strong story about the young lives that are blighted by the evil doings of their elders. Except for a short, sharp, non-verbal car chase, it has no action worth mentioning and none the worse for that. The highest score that satanically refuses that when the closing titles roll, we read with total disbelief that there wasn't a word of documentary truth in it.  
**11.00** *Operation Raleigh: With My House Upon My Back*. A film from the Australian Film and Television School about a group of young people from Britain's inner cities who spent a Christmas digging graves in the moors of southwest Tasmania (r). (Ceeba)  
**11.30** *Who Came Next?* Dr Jonathan Miller considers the options available to the elderly and infirm who do not want to go into a residential home (r). (Ceeba)  
**12.00** *Weather*. Wales: News headlines and weather.

## BBC 2

- 6.45** *Open University: Education* – Time to Learn. Ends at 7.40.  
**8.00** *News*.  
**8.15** *BC: The Archaeology of the Bible Lands*. Magnus Magnusson is in Nineveh to examine the rise to power of ancient Assyria (r).  
**8.45** *Witnere's*. Houses. P.J. Kavanagh visits the Buckinghamshire village where the 18th century poet William Cowper lived (r).  
**9.00** *Seventy Summers: The Story of a Farm* (r).  
**9.30** *Film: The Last Squadron* (1932, b/w). Comedy-drama about first world war pilots finding work as stunt men. Starring Joel McCrea and directed by George Archainbaud.  
**10.45** *Film: Ivanhoe* (1952). Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor star in a swashbuckler epic based on the novel by Sir Walter Scott. Directed by Richard Thorpe.  
**12.30** *Info Orbs*. Documentary about the work of a medical team who fly round the globe in a converted DC-8 treating some of the world's 42 million blind people (r). (Ceeba) **1.20** *Charlie Chalk* (r).  
**1.35** *The Way That I Went*. Belfast-born Joe McWilliams recalls the beauty of the Mourne Mountains (r).  
**2.00** *News* and weather followed by *Songs of Praise* from Dartmouth (r). (Ceeba) **2.35** *Early On Morning*. The changing pattern of the seasons.  
**3.00** *News* and weather followed by *To Build A Fire*. A man faces death in the Arctic (r). **3.50** *News*, regional news and weather.  
**4.00** *Byways*. Jack Tinker with the history of the Brighton railway line.  
**4.30** *Our Darren*. Documentary about a 17-year-old boy's courageous fight for recovery after being paralysed from the neck down in a car accident (r). (Ceeba) **5.10** *Wild World*. A focus on a remote Costa Rican beach which is a breeding ground for turtles (r).  
**6.00** *Film: Countdown* (1989). James Dean and Robert Duvall star in this early film from director Robert Altman. When the US space agency learns that the Russians have a manned ship in space, they attempt to speed up their own project and recruit an unfortunate pilot, the only available spacecraft is outdated and the mission becomes increasingly dangerous.  
**7.45** *Cine Memoir: A Legacy 1928-1947*.  
 ● *CHOICE*: Whatever it was that gave BBC Television its summer appetite for amateur film compilations like this one (Nostalgia for those who were young? Product shortage? Secured rights for lost treasures?), you should be as grateful for it as you were, presumably, for last Saturday night's BBC2 all-German anthology *My Private War* which was largely militaristic. *A Legacy*, in contrast, is pacifist except for some 1934 shots of Nazis up to no good on the film streets, a duck shooting expedition on the River Scheldt, and bulldozers knocking the stuffing out of the medieval heart of Hamburg. Elsewhere, you can enjoy a *jour de fête* in a French market town where only Jacques Tati's postman is missing, or cheer badgers at work in the Chiltern Hills, or a self-conscious Cornish gorse. There are pastoral scenes galore to soothe the heart and moisten the eye, and Ray Brook's commentary is sensitively attuned to the whole delightful enterprise. (Ceeba)



On a charitable highway to Heaven: Frankie Valli (8.30pm)

- 8.30** *Different Drummer: Fleetbag*.  
 ● *CHOICE*: The latest, and last, American scenic to feature in this distinctly different documentary series is an all-the-year-round scenic of a subway called *Frankie Valli* who lives under a flat cap and behind a round cigar and who, when pressed to express his simple philosophy towards his less fortunate fellow human beings, replies: "I give them a lot of yesses, and not too many no's". In short, Frankie Valli likes people who don't have much, and without exception to be paid back, he tops up their meagre resources with dollar hand-outs, free meals, or a room for the night. The highest score that satanically refuses that outside which he used to sell newspapers. By his own calculation, he is worth between \$2m and \$3m, yet should have no difficulty going through either the eyes of a needle or the gates of Heaven. (Ceeba)  
**9.00** *Film: Prison For Children* (1986). A drama focusing on the plight of young offenders who are sent to brutalising correctional institutions. Starring John Rittor and Betty Thomas. Directed by Larry Posen. (Ceeba) **10.30** *Newsnight* with John Simpson.  
**11.15** *Edinburgh Nights* presented by Tracey Mclod and Kirsty Watt.  
**11.55** *Weather*.

## ITV

- 6.00** *TV-am*.  
**9.25** *Vicky the Viking*. Animated adventures **9.50** *Thames News* and weather.  
**9.55** *Short Story Theatre: The Seven Wives of Joanna Peabody*. A short story about how rewarding life can be when not thinking of oneself **10.25** *Just for the Record*. Includes a smoke skywriter and a vast swimming pool (r).  
**10.50** *News* **10.55** *Adventure on Kythera* II. Children's adventure series set on a Greek island **11.25** *Ox Tales*. Animation **11.55** *Regional News* and weather.  
**12.00** *Disney Cartoon* starring Pluto **12.10** *Rosie and Jim*. Puppets (r) **12.30** *News* with John Suckling. Weather. **1.10** *Thames News* and weather.  
**1.20** *Home and Away*. (Oracle) **1.50** *A Country Practice*.  
**2.20** *Thames Help*. Jackie Sprackley looks at voluntary work which involves a long term commitment **2.50** *The Green Life Guide*. Magazine series investigating environmental issues. With Alistair McDonald and Dilly Barlow.  
**3.15** *News* headlines **3.20** *Thames News* **3.25** *Families*. Spot linking the birth of England with Australia.  
**3.55** *Frankie Rock* **4.10** *Cartoon* **4.30** *T-Bag and the Ravagers of the T-Set* (r) **4.45** *The Fantastic Adventures of Mr Rossi* (r).  
**5.10** *Blockbusters* with Bob Holness.  
**5.40** *News* with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) *Weather*.  
**5.55** *Thames Help*. Jackie Sprackley looks at voluntary work which involves a long term commitment. Today – hospice volunteers.  
**6.00** *Home and Away* (r). (Oracle) **6.30** *Thames News* and weather.  
**7.00** *Plaza Patrol*. Last in the late sitcom series starring Cannon and Ball as two night security men working in a shopping plaza.  
**7.30** *Coronation Street*. (Oracle)



Thrust into a world of political etiquette: Goldie Hawn (8.00pm)

- 8.00** *Film: Protocol* (1984). Entertaining comedy-drama specially designed for Goldie Hawn who plays Sunny Davis, a waitress at a cocktail bar in Washington DC. When she accidentally saves an important Arab diplomat from an assassination attempt, White House aides are so impressed that they persuade her to join the Department of Protocol. Directed by Herbert Ross. (Oracle)  
**9.50** *ITV Autumn Preview*. Highlights from some of the forthcoming attractions for this autumn.  
**10.00** *News* at Ten with Alistair Burnet and Julia Somerville. (Oracle)  
**10.40** *Under the Skin*. The horrors of the Crown are of November 1987, when 33 people died and many others suffered extensive burns, showed up the desperate need in Britain for improved plastic surgery facilities. A new research unit was set up at University College Hospital and this documentary, presented by Dr Angus McGrouther, shows some of the problems involved in trying to help burn victims recover both physically and mentally.  
**11.10** *Thinly Murdered*. Talks. A. (Oracle) *Stacy Keach* stars as Mickey Spillane's tough private eye, Mike Hammer, in this stylish crime caper. Hammer turns down a case from a Las Vegas entertainer but soon finds out that no one says "no" to Johnny Roman. Directed by John Nicola.  
**12.00pm** *Sportsworld Extra*. Tony Francis introduces two-wheel action with highlights from the Scottish Pro Circuit City Centre Cycling League. A round-up of news and action from the opening encounters of the new football season.  
**1.50** *World Chess Championship*. The best chess players in the world continue to fight it out for a place in the semi-finals in their best of eight matches. The Times' chess correspondent and grandmaster Raymond Keene analyses the moves in highlights sponsored by The Times.  
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**4.10** *Film: Blondie Plays Cupid* (1939, b/w). Continuing the series of comedies based on the Chick Young strip cartoon about the Bumstead family. Dagwood (Arthur Lake) helps a young couple to elope but ends up in the bride's father's room by mistake. With Penny Singleton as Blondie and Glenn Ford as the bridegroom. Directed by Frank Strayer.  
**5.30** *ITN Morning News* with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** *The Channel Four Daily*.  
**9.25** *Film: The Mikado* (1939). First full-length film of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, starring Henry Baker, Jean Colin and Martyn Green with the London Symphony Orchestra and the chorus of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Directed by Victor Schertzinger.  
**11.05** *White Fury* – the Untamed Tibet. Documentary following a team of international white-water rafters as they travel through the icy waters of the Rongbuk river in Tibet (r).  
**12.00** *Flowering Passions: The Amazing Technicolour Garden*. In the last programme of the series, Anna Pavord meets John Hubbard, an artist who is famed for his use of colour (r). (Teletext)  
**12.30** *Business Daily*.  
**1.00** *Sesame Street*. Entertaining early learning series (r).  
**2.00** *Film: Walk East on Beacon* (1952, b/w). Completely cold war spy thriller starring George Murphy as an FBI inspector on the trail of Russian agents. With Finlay Currie, Virginia Gilmore and Karel Stepanek. Directed by Alfred Werker.  
**3.50** *Pete Smith Specialities* (b/w). Short film about a day in the life of a Hollywood animal scout.  
**4.00** *Get Stair: Shipments to Beirut*. Sixties spoof spy series starring Don Adams.  
**4.30** *Countdown*. Words and numbers game show.  
**5.00** *On the Other Hand*. Discussion programme dealing with issues which are particularly relevant to the Asian community. Today's programme explores the relationship between indulgent Asian mothers and their dutiful sons (r).  
**6.00** *The Wonder Years*. Fred Savage is the wistful adolescent growing up in Sixties America (r).  
**6.30** *The Henderson Kids*. Antipodean drama series which launched Kylie Minogue on the road to fame (r).  
**7.00** *Channel Four News* with Nicholas Owen and Zenab Badawi. (Teletext) *Weather* **7.50** *Comment*.  
**8.00** *Breakfast*. Merseyside melodrama (Teletext).  
**8.30** *My Two Dads*. Laughless US sitcom about a motherless girl with two fathers.



Fanning the flames of discontent: an Amazonian Indian (8.00pm)

- 9.00** *The "Savage" Strikes Back: Flames in the Forest*.  
 ● *CHOICE*: Who knew British Gas may decide to strike back with their environment-friendly television campaign. Now that would bring a frisson to Channel 4's programming tonight! British Gas are represented as one of the baddies in this, the first of a new series of documentaries about tribal peoples (the goodies) who claim that their existence is under threat *Flames in the Forest* gives some Amazonian Indians a platform from which they can appeal to the world to do something to prevent the giants as British Gas and Arco from continuing to rape their forests, pollute their rivers, destroy their wild life, and subject them to the back-door colonialism which they see as a concomitant of ecological destruction. The Indians plead their cause with much passion, and the damning evidence they produce shames the shallowness of the response that gas provides from the energy-hungry giants E.A.G.C. Ghesse. Absorbing drama series set in a Canadian news station. Roberts discovers a US Congressman is involved with the Ku Klux Klan and Antonelli's former wife is hired as a researcher at the channel.  
**11.00** *Down Under: A Night Out*. Sensitivity-told story (first of a trio of Australian films) about a gay relationship which is damaged when one partner is beaten up by a gang of thugs.  
**11.55** *Down Under: Swimming*. Award winning short drama by Belinda Chayko about a 12-year-old girl (Michelle Linley) who begins a video diary, with tragic consequences.  
**12.00pm** *Down Under: A Song of Air*. Marilee Bennett's film examination of the relationship she had with her father, Sir Arnold Bennett QC.  
**12.40** *Komitas*. Don Askerian's drama-documentary about the Armenian man, composer and conductor Komitas who was overcome with grief by the Turkish government's massacre of three-quarters of the Armenian population in 1915 and ended his life in mental institutions (r). Ends at 2.25.

- ANGLIA**  
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 As 7.00-7.30 Home and Away  
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MONDAY AUGUST 19 1991

## Union law showdown expected at TUC

**CALLS** for the repeal of Conservative employment laws will cause a showdown between Britain's biggest unions at the Trades Union Congress in Glasgow next month.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union will head an attempt to soften Transport and General Workers' Union proposals for a new broad approach to employment law.

Support from congress for the T&G motion would be politically damaging for the Labour party, Mr Kinnock and his shadow cabinet colleagues have worked hard to persuade voters they are partners with the TUC rather than its pawns.

The T&G motion calls for "the repeal of all anti-union legislation and replacement with a new framework which would give trade unions the ability to carry out their proper functions". In particular, the T&G seeks a legal right for workers to join a union, and for unions to strike and carry out collective bargaining.

The National Union of Mineworkers goes further. It has proposed an amendment demanding that the Labour party "repeal the 1990 Employment Act immediately on taking office and to repeal all other anti-trade union legislation introduced by the Tories since 1979".

The AEU, however, has tabled a series of amendments designed to soften both the substance and the tone of the hard-liners' proposals.

Most significant is the AEU call for repeal to be followed by "a new law based on the Labour party proposals". Implicit in its wording would be the retention of the law requiring secret ballots for strikes.

## Tokyo brokers 'face prison'

Japanese brokers said their clients who ignore tighter curbs on improper compensation for investment losses face jail, according to Japanese newspaper reports.

The finance ministry declined to comment on reports in the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* and the *Asahi Shimbun* that said the draft legislation included a penalty of up to one year's imprisonment or a fine of up to ¥1 million (£4,382) for brokerage officials doling out compensation. Corporations and other recipients would face up to six months in jail or a fine of up to ¥500,000.

## Boost for savings

Index-linked savings certificates boosted the inflow to National Savings last month. Receipts of £152.5 million outstripped repayments of £60 million. Government funding received £97.6 million from the department. When accrued interest is added the net addition to funding is £265.9 million.

The new children's bonus bond attracted 35,000 investors making an average investment of £444, a total of £15.2 million. The amount invested in National Savings at the end of July went up to £37.4 billion.

## Pakistan BCCI offers to buy

Employees of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in Pakistan have offered to buy its operations in the country.

An employees' statement said that with the support of the bank's Pakistani customers, a takeover bid can be structured that would be "far superior and beneficial" to a proposal from Abu Dhabi.

(Reuters)

## THE POUND

**CHANGE ON WEEK**  
US dollar 1.6620 (-0.0345)  
German mark 2.9268 (-0.0013)  
Exchange index 90.3 (-0.5)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 2041.9 (+36.4)  
FT-SE 100 2621.0 (+50.4)  
New York Dow Jones 2968.02 (-28.18)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22814.37 (-620.25)

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# Worst of slump in retail sales may now be over, says CBI

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE slide in sales that caused the most thorough shakeout among Britain's shopkeepers for a decade seems to have halted. In spite of miserable weather and weak consumer confidence, retail sales last month were little worse than a year ago.

Evidence of a levelling out in the downturn is provided by the distributive trades survey carried out by the Confederation of British Industry, published today. Dr Andrew Stansbury, CBI director of economic affairs, said: "The worst of the fall in retail sales may now be behind us."

The CBI findings are expected to be confirmed today by provisional retail sales figures for July from the government's

Central Statistical Office. Anecdotal accounts from retailers reinforce survey evidence that high street sales are now "bumping along the bottom".

Andrew Curry, the trading director of London Electricity, runs more than 60 stores selling electrical goods in the South-east, where consumers have been particularly hard hit by high interest rates. He said: "Year-on-year, we have had an increase in sales, albeit a small one. Some other retailers must be in the same boat."

Until now, only supermarkets have seemed immune to the prolonged recession in the high street. Increased emphasis on higher value products, such as ready meals, enabled them to buck the trend.

But early and prolonged summer sales

and discounting by retailers of clothing and durable goods do appear to have persuaded consumers to spend some of the cash gained from lower mortgage and interest rates.

"If I advertise something at 20 per cent off, people will come pouring through the doors," said Malcolm Parkinson, chief executive of The Garden Centre, which runs Britain's largest chain of garden centres.

Bargain hunting has become the driving force of shoppers, he concludes. In the absence of special offers, consumers are inclined to save their spare cash. Confidence among middle class consumers in the South remains especially weak, he said.

Yet even the slide in sales of white goods, such as cookers, fridges and washing machines, seems to have steadied. Al-

though down 9 per cent during the first seven months of the year, deliveries of white goods last month were only 1 per cent lower than the same period a year ago, according to the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances.

Deliveries of microwave ovens, which are excluded from those figures, rose sharply last month to a level 32 per cent above the same month last year. Overall, consumers appear quite willing, and able, to spend on new products, but reluctant to update expensive items of domestic electrical equipment unless they have to.

But Britain's motor manufacturers and dealers have had some success in using discounting to lure the bargain hunters. "Motor traders, who have seen sales

volumes down, year-on-year, for over two years now, report that business improved a little in July," said Dr Stansbury.

The CBI's survey, covering 15,000 retail and wholesale outlets, found managers expect sales this month to show a slight improvement over last year. Volumes, however, remain poor for the time of year.

The levelling out comes after a prolonged downturn in the high street, but the impact has as much to do with retailers' past excessive expectations of growth as with the scale of the downturn. In June, the CBI's index recorded the volume of retail sales at 120, or 20 per cent higher than in 1985, and 0.5 per cent lower than the same month of last year. A "same again" result might well be grounds for good cheer.

## US Treasury lifts suspension as firm's top managers stand down

# Salomon chiefs resign after bond scandal

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

**SALOMON** Brothers, one of the most powerful traders on Wall Street, last night accepted the resignations of its two most senior executives John Gutfreund, chairman and chief executive, and Thomas Strauss, the president.

The two men tendered their resignations at an emergency board meeting after the recent disclosures of illegal activities in the US treasury bond market.

Earlier in the day the US Treasury said that Salomon Brothers would be suspended from bidding in US treasury bond auctions until the firm "takes appropriate steps to correct irregular business practices". After the departures of Mr Gutfreund and Mr Strauss, the Treasury reversed its suspension.

In the biggest management upheaval in its 81-year history, Salomon also confirmed the appointment of Warren Buffett as chief operating officer on a temporary basis. "I don't know what interim means," said Mr Buffett last night. "I don't know how long it will take to get this job done. My job is to clean up the sins of the past."

"For what I have learned so far there were a handful of incidents that could have led to trouble but the aggressive culture of the firm contributed to that," he added.

Mr Buffett is a Salomon director whose Berkshire Hathaway investment conglomerate spent \$700 million on 13 per cent of Salomon in 1987 to save it from Ronald Perleman, the corporate raider, and his Revlon Group.

Further departures emerged after the board meeting. John Meriwether, vice chairman of Salomon, also offered his resignation which was accepted. Salomon also said it had dismissed Paul Mozer and Tom Murphy, the managing directors.

Salomon said that Deryck Maughan, a British-born former United Kingdom Treasury official has been appointed as chief executive. Mr Maughan is a vice chairman

who has recently been promoted to take charge of the firm's investment banking operations after a successful spell in Tokyo. It is understood he flew to New York from London on Friday night.

Salomon has stunned the financial community in the past ten days with two revelations that effectively admit to an attempt to corner the market in US treasury bonds to control prices. It is one of the three biggest players in the market.

In its earlier notice of suspension, the US Treasury Department added that a resumption of Salomon's role in auctions also depended on the results of ongoing enquiries into its practices. But the action does not affect the firm's status as a primary dealer, which the Federal Reserve Bank of New York hinted on Friday was under review.

Mr Gutfreund, aged 61, has been with Salomon 38 years, chairman since 1978, and was once dubbed the "King of Wall Street". His personal stake is worth \$27.5 million and last year he earned \$3.5



Act of abdication: John Gutfreund arrives at Salomon Brothers' offices yesterday

## The shy legend with a taste for hamburgers and quality



Buffett: bucks the trend

**WARREN** Buffett's management and investment style are unlikely to sit easily with the aggressive shoot-from-the-hip prowess that has been encouraged as the culture of choice at Salomon.

Mr Buffett, aged 60, shuns publicity but his long-term approach to investment strategy has become legendary in America. He takes an annual salary of \$100,000 and has scorned what he has described as Wall Street's blindness to value in its blinkered pursuit of performance.

Any short-term share price fall at Salomon is unlikely to worry the man who admits he loves McDonald's hamburgers and Cherry Coke, bought his first investment book when he was five and owned

his first share at eight. In the past ten years he has honed a strategy that ran counter to the popular quick-buck corporate raiders of the Eighties.

The stake in Salomon's preferred shares gives Berkshire Hathaway, his New York-based investment vehicle, the right to buy 13 per cent of the ordinary shares at \$38, or 36 per cent above their current level. Mr Buffett contends that people will pay for quality. Berkshire Hathaway shares are the most expensive on Wall Street. One share costs \$8,825.

Other investments include a 7 per cent stake in Coca-Cola, and 17 per cent of the *Washington Post*. He has just gained SEC approval to double his stake in Wells Fargo, the California bank, to 22 per cent.

## Rubin case baffles the regulators

By JON ASHWORTH

THE mysterious case of David Rubin, the rabbi's son who has disappeared with an estimated £60 million, is turning into one of the biggest embarrassments ever for Britain's financial regulators. No one seems to know what Mr Rubin did, how he operated, or what he invested in. What is known is that investors have lost a huge amount of money, and the regulators who were set up to protect them are powerless to do anything about it.

DM Rubin & Associates, which traded from offices in Golders Green, north London, does not appear to have been registered with any regulatory body. If Mr Rubin was conducting investment business, legally or illegally, then this would be a matter for Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, or for the Securities and Investments Board. Ultimately, the buck would stop with the Department of Trade and Industry.

If illegal deposit taking was involved, then the case becomes a matter for the Bank of England and the police. This gives the other financial regulators a convenient excuse to refer questions to

the Bank and wash their hands of the matter. And since the Bank has made no progress on the case whatsoever, investors are left with nowhere to turn.

The loophole in investor protection remains, and financial regulators admit they are powerless to change it. Unless a financial adviser seeks authorisation for his activities, and unless his clients, if unhappy, notify the authorities, there is absolutely nothing they can do about it.

Mr Rubin, aged 45, disappeared more than three weeks ago and is believed to be abroad. In a telephone interview with *The Jewish Chronicle* he claimed he was "penniless" and said an abortive £2.4 million trading deal with Zaire had triggered his downfall.

One of the problems with the Rubin case is that it involves the ultra-orthodox Jewish Hassidic community. Its members believe in meeting out their own justice, and would not dream of calling in the police or other authorities to help out. Because of this secrecy, investigations into the affair have ground to a halt.

Mr Rubin's father, the Rabbi of Sasso, is a revered figure in the

Hassidic community. The community has closed ranks, protecting its own, and hence frustrating attempts by financial regulators or the police to find out more.

The trend was broken last week when two New York businessmen obtained a court order to prevent funds being transferred to an account in Switzerland. In Britain, complainants have yet to come forward.

Investors are believed to have lost £15 million by dealing with unauthorised advisers or agents since the Financial Services Act came into force in April 1988. Almost all of it is irrecoverable and none of it is covered by the investors' compensation scheme.

Six hundred cases of possible unauthorised investment business were reported to the SIB in the three years to April, when the latest annual report was published. Six individuals were convicted and imprisoned in that period.

John Redwood, minister for corporate affairs, has said regulators should protect the public from the most obvious financial abuses. Mr Rubin's activities were far from obvious. And the affair is unlikely to be the last of its kind.

## M&S plans to review American operations

By MARTIN WALLER

**RICHARD** Greenbury, chairman of Marks and Spencer, will shortly cross the Atlantic to review the future of the group's perennially underperforming businesses in North America, including Brooks Brothers, the prestige menswear retailer.

M&S has already moved to strengthen the management at Brooks, for which Mr Greenbury, in one of his first statements as chairman, admitted the group had paid too high a price. Paul Smith, a main board director, will look after the North American businesses and sit on the Brooks board.

Middle management appointments have been made in America from M&S's London headquarters, but the British retailer is now thought to be planning an even more hands-on approach, with the possibility of disposals not ruled out.

M&S yesterday refused to confirm Mr Greenbury's movements "for security reasons", but he is known to be planning the trip and has also accepted that sweeping changes may be necessary in America as the group concentrates its expansion plans on Europe.

M&S said: "Mr Greenbury, at the year-end conference in May, and at the end of July, made it very clear we would have to grasp the nettle when it comes to Canada."

In the last full year, profits from Brooks halved to just \$11 million on sales of \$300 million and there was little real improvement at the loss-making Canadian operations.

# THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN

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## Mountleigh will know result of issue today

By MATTHEW BOND

BY THE middle of this afternoon, the board of Mountleigh, the debt-laden property group, will know how successful its controversial rights issue has been. The final deadline by which shareholders have to pay for their rights issue entitlement is 3pm. UBS Phillips & Drew, which has underwritten the offer, is not expecting a rush.

But with the issue fully underwritten and the £96 million of new money apparently secured, the first priority of the company's top management will be to put last week's public censure by the London Stock Exchange behind them. Friday's strongly worded statement rejecting the Stock Exchange's criticism is unlikely to be their last word on the subject.

The Stock Exchange censured Nelson Peltz and Peter May, chairman and joint managing director of Mountleigh, for the manner in which they sold an 11.3 per cent stake in the company to a Gordon Getty family trust less than seven weeks before the company's results were published and while the pair were in possession of privileged information as to the true state of Mountleigh's finances. Clive Strouger, Mountleigh's chief executive and a former member of the Stock Exchange panel, was also criticised for approving the share sale.

Most observers are expecting Mountleigh's institutional shareholders to shun the issue, which would enable Mr Peltz and Mr May to tighten their control of the company. Acting in concert with the Gordon Getty trust, Mr Peltz and Mr May are expected to take their stake up to 29 per cent through their sub-underwriting commitments.

Their concert party is sub-underwriting the first 12.5 per cent of the new shares. The next 36 per cent is sub-underwritten by HEI, a Bahamas-registered partnership used by members of the Pritzker family, and by Accumulator, a Danish property company run by Klaus Pedersen. Assuming their full underwriting commitment is required, HEI will emerge with 13.3 per cent of Mountleigh and Accumulator with 5.2 per cent.

The two new shareholders were brought in specially to support the rights issue but are not deemed to be acting in concert. Nevertheless, assuming the rights issue has met with the lukewarm response most observers have forecast, the underwriting structure means that up to 47.5 per cent of the company will be in what Mr Peltz and Mr May must regard as friendly hands.

## Farmers Insurance braced to count cost of refund ruling

By PHILIP ROBINSON AND NEIL BENNETT

FARMERS Insurance, BAT Industries' Californian insurance group, is bracing itself for the results of a ruling by state regulators that could cost the industry \$2.5 billion.

John Garamendi, the California insurance commissioner, has told the state's 4,000 insurance companies that they must offer refunds to 20 million policyholders as a result of insurance reforms known as proposition 103

which passed into law three years ago.

He estimates the cost to the industry at \$2.5 billion. A spokesman for Farmers said: "We don't know what demands are going to be made on us yet. We have always argued we do not think we will have to offer refunds because it can be shown we have not made an excessive rate of return on our policies."

Mr Garamendi has estimated that each policyholder will receive an average refund of about \$100. Farmers has about three and a half million policyholders who could be affected.

"It would be wrong to extrapolate that our exposure is \$350 million," the Farmers spokesman said. "It could be nothing."

Farmers has raised the cost of car insurance twice since the reforms were passed. In 1990, premiums rose 5.3 per cent and this year they went up 6.5 per cent.

The state commissioner is expected to issue payment notices within the next month. But some companies have already pledged to fight the move through the courts.

"We are not part of any joint litigation," said the spokesman for Farmers. "Furthermore I think that it would be premature to comment on the situation until we have seen the official notification."

As part of his reforms, Mr Garamendi has told insurers that he would consider any annual rate of return above 10 per cent excessive.

Mr Garamendi has called for executive salaries to be based on a standard executive search formula and says that insurers may no longer offset the cost of political donations and lobbying against their profits.

He said that over the past ten years, some insurance companies had earned excessive profits, gaining up to triple the rate of return that he is now demanding.

And he said the executive pay ceiling is necessary to ensure that "excessive bloated bigwig salaries will not come out of the pockets of policyholders."

Shares in BAT Industries fell 5p to 742p in London on Friday when news of the payments broke.

Brokers' analysts estimate that Farmers controls 13 per cent of the Californian motor insurance market, and earns 28 per cent of its premium income from the sector, or \$1.76 billion last year.

Most other British composite insurers have been steadily reducing their exposure to the Californian insurance market in recent years as a result of the heavy regulatory pressures.

Royal Insurance, for example, wrote premiums of only \$16 million on motor policies in the state last year. Royal feels that it will be little affected by the implementation of Proposal 103.

## Carpetland sold in £12m buyout

By MARTIN WALLER

ERNST & Young, administrative receiver of the collapsed Lowndes Queensway furniture retailer, will today announce a £12 million management buyout at the Carpetland business.

The buyout is backed by CIN Venture Managers, which takes in the venture capital assets of the British Coal, British Rail and Barclays Bank pension funds.

It includes the 80 carpet stores still trading after heavy rationalisation once Lowndes Queensway went into administrative receivership a year ago, with 230 stores open.

More than a third of the 550 remaining employees are investing between £500 and £5,000 each.

Last autumn, Ernst &

Young and Terry Carter, its partner dealing with the sale of Lowndes Queensway assets, apparently ruled out a buyout, after suggestions that various businesses, including Allied Carpets, part of Asda, were interested. Mr Carter said then that conditions were not favourable for a buyout.

Under the new arrangements, CINVen and the management and employees are between them putting in £9 million and Barclays Bank is providing banking and working capital of £3 million.

The Carpetland chain was reported this year as having a book value of £20 million. Ernst & Young has accepted the price it has raised reflects the impact the recession has had on that sector of retailing.

## Institutions face API decision time

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE all-shares bid by NMC Group for API Group, a fellow packaging business, has entered its final week with a counterblast from the bidder over API's "appalling decline" under current management.

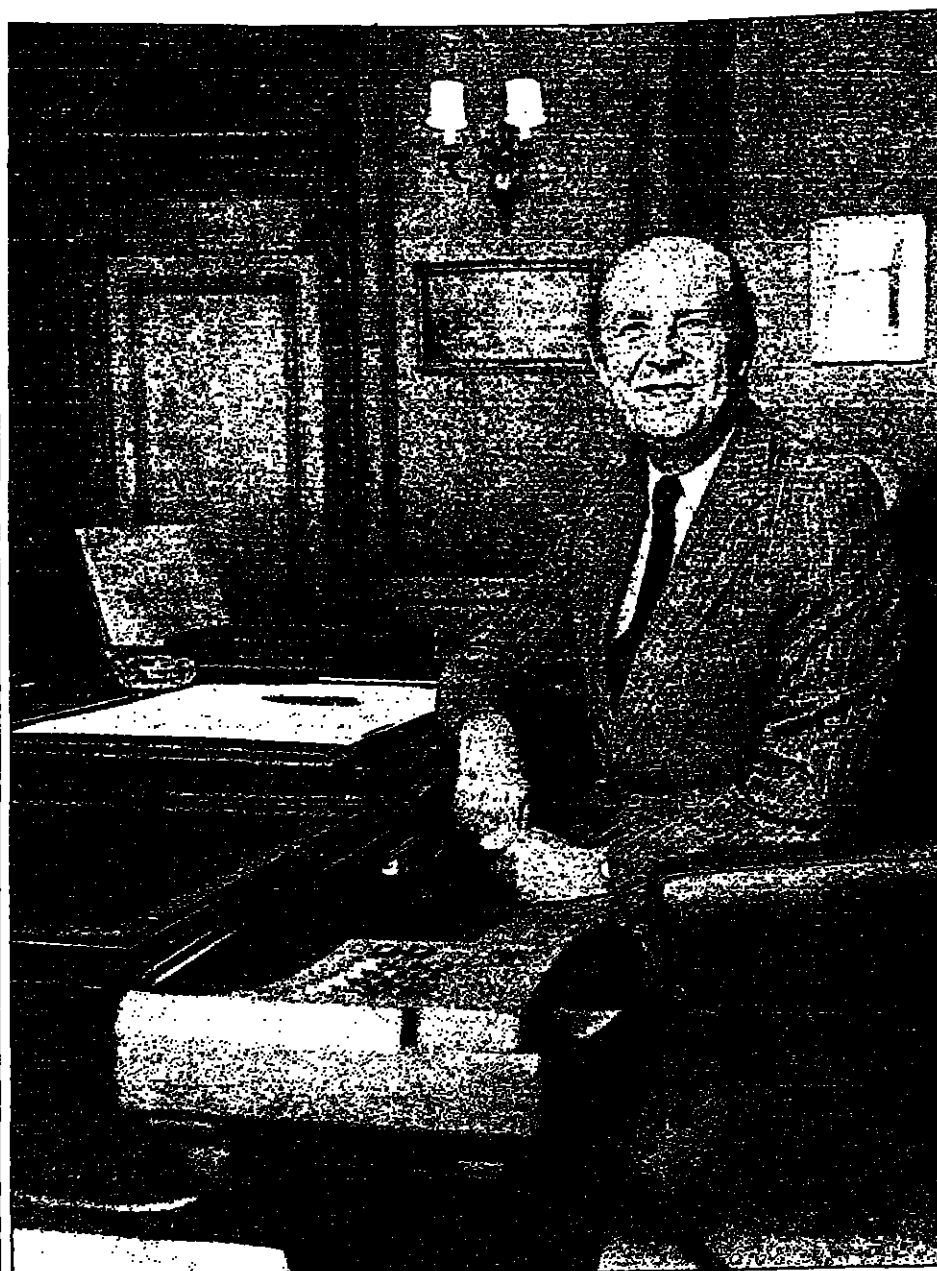
The £32 million offer closes on Saturday, and API's fate will be decided this week by the 12 institutions that control 60 per cent of its shares. API has said profits should recover this year and shareholders should hang on for the future.

But NMC said at the weekend that API's profits would end to rise from a forecast £50,000 this financial year to £40,000 next year to command the offer price of 144.9p

on the average multiple for packagers.

Norman Gordon, NMC chief executive, said: "Shareholders must choose between the existing board, which has presided over API's appalling decline, and NMC, with its proven management record."

The bid offers institutions a straight choice between the two managements, as there is no cash offer. NMC has made great play of the fact that API has just one full-time board member, the finance director, and has brought Eric Holroyd, aged 64, out of retirement to act as temporary managing director. API is seeking his successor and a new chairman.



'Too many branches and people': Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds

## Lloyds chief says Britain has a surfeit of banks

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN Pitman, the chief executive of Lloyds Bank, has said there will be continuing excess capacity in the banking market in spite of the reorganisation that is occurring throughout the industry.

Mr Pitman said, in an interview, that he saw no immediate solution to the overcompetition within banking in Britain and abroad.

"There is too much capital, too many branches and too many people. These are being diminished, but the process is only half way through."

Mr Pitman was talking in the wake of Lloyds' interim figures. These showed a 19 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £331 million, due to a rise in bad debt provisions. The results were regarded widely as the best of the banks' results. Lloyds was the only main clearing bank to increase its dividend in the half year.

Mr Pitman said some of the over-provision of financial service in the high street

would be solved by more building society mergers. He said the number of societies may fall from more than 90 to 50 within three years.

Banks, he insisted, however, would remain cautious about closing branches in Britain for fear of losing market share, even though the change in people's shopping habits and the rise in electronic banking has made many rural branches unprofitable.

"If you make it less convenient for people to bank with you, you will lose business. We have to be sure there is no chance that one of our branches will ever make a proper return before we close it," he said.

This year, Lloyds is planning to close 127 outlets, including 16 of its 2,000 full branches, and has reduced its staff by 4,800 in the first six months.

Mr Pitman said that banking was becoming the commodity business that Lloyds had predicted several years

ago. "We started then to look at how we could differentiate ourselves from our rivals and we decided we had to become an all-round financial services company," he said. During the last half year, 45 per cent of the group's profits came from Lloyds Abbey Life, the group's life assurance and estate agency associate.

Lloyds believes that banking income will be depressed in Britain for the rest of the year and into next year. "Economic growth will be slow, the high real rate of interest will choke off consumer demand and corporate customers are keen to reduce their bank borrowings."

In spite of this, Mr Pitman said the bank's profits would benefit from a continuing increase in its interest margin. This, he said, came not only from a rise in lending rates but also from the recent surge in deposits. This is reducing Lloyds' reliance on expensive wholesale market funding.

## SMALLER COMPANIES

### Intercare enjoys a healthy outlook

SHARES in Intercare Group have more than doubled from 43p to 100p this year, reflecting the improved outlook for the medical products group.

In February, Intercare announced a return to profit, earning £504,000 before tax for the year to the end of last October, helped by acquisitions, and in June the company paid a maiden interim dividend of 0.5p a share from earnings of 4.1p.

The company's switch from the now defunct Third Market to the Unlisted Securities Market at the turn of the year improved City perception of its prospects in a healthcare sector that is enjoying the benefit of reforms in the National Health Service, increased emphasis on care in the community and an ageing population.

Acquisitions have also caught the eye. Not least among them is the purchase of 75 per cent of Montis Medical in The Netherlands, announced last week.

Intercare shares rose 16p to 100p after the £3.16 million deal, even though the company issued more than 5 million shares to fund the acquisition and raise working capital. Unusually, the shares have traded comfortably above a placing price of 80p.

Montis distributes a range of healthcare products, mainly in The Netherlands, including the electric vehicles assembled by Booster, a British company acquired by Intercare in April. About 50 per cent of the production of Booster is distributed through Montis, which participates in design changes that are necessary to conform to regulations in European countries where it is sold.

Last year, Montis earned profits of £510,000 before tax, and at year-end had net assets of £480,000.

Montis has forecast profits of £587,000 this year. Further profit-related payments have been agreed. Intercare may pay up to £3 million for the outstanding 25 per cent if targets are met between 1992 and 1995.

In the first half of its current year, Intercare earned profits of £452,000 before tax, on turnover of £5.8 million, and analysts believe it is on target for profits of £1.3 million. A full contribution from Montis next year should enhance earnings.

MARTIN BARROW

## REPORTING THIS WEEK

### ACT payment takes toll of Argos

TODAY

BRITAIN'S leading catalogue showroom retailer, Argos, headed by Mike Smith, chief executive, and David Donne, the chairman, is likely to report a sharp decline in interim profits, although the full-year results are expected to show an advance.

David Robinson, at Nikko Securities, forecasts first-half pre-tax profits of £10.7 million (£14.9 million). Market forecasts range from £9 million to £12 million. Mr Robinson says that the decrease has been well flagged and is partly due to the one-off payment of advance corporation tax (ACT), which will depress interest receivable.

The unseasonal summer weather is likely to have contributed to a slowing in first-half sales, with a 4.5 per cent like-for-like decline predicted, compared with growth of 9.1 per cent last time.

The company's balance sheet is in good shape, with year-end net cash forecast at about £204 million (£151 million). Dr Smith is expected to be fairly upbeat about prospects.

News is awaited on Argos's diversification into furniture retailing, with some information on management restructuring. With the bulk of profits



Upbeat about prospects: Mike Smith (left) and David Donne, of Argos

earned in the second half - accounting for about 80 per cent of the total - Mr Robinson forecasts full-year pre-tax profits of £77.3 million (£75.1 million).

Interim: Alliance Trust, Ambit International, Argos, BPP Holdings, EFT Group, Epsom Group, French Property Trust, May & Croft Group. Final: None announced. Economic statistics: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (July), retail sales (July - provisional), gross domestic product (output-based) (second quarter - preliminary).

TOMORROW

Willis Corroon, the insurance broker that is the product of last October's merger between

Willis Faber and Corroon & Rack, the American retail broker, is expected to announce interim pre-tax profits of £70 million, against last time's pro forma £75.5 million, according to Credit Lyonnais Laing. Market forecasts range from £67 million to £71 million.

Interim: Associated Fisheries, Cambridge Electronic Industries, City Centre Restaurants, Kerry Group, Rie Brothers, Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, Season Holdings, TFI High Income Trust, Willis Corroon. Final: ATP Communications, Gold Fields of South Africa, Pilco Holdings.

Economic statistics: Long-term unemployment (July), finished steel consumption and stock changes (first quarter), manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (second quarter - provisional), major British banking groups' monthly statement (July), provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (July).

WEDNESDAY

Severe market conditions will have taken their toll of first-half profits at BICC, the cables and construction group.

Balfour Beatty, the British construction subsidiary which accounts for about a fifth of

the group, will have seen difficult trading, with America and Australasia affected by "a very severe set of markets". There is some concern that there could be provisions at Balfour Beatty.

Elsewhere, American cable volumes and prices are down. Adam Page at County NatWest expects interim pre-tax profits to decline by 25 per cent to £75 million (£100.4 million). Earnings per share are forecast to fall by 29 per cent to 15.4p (21.8p), although the interim dividend should be maintained at 6p.

UBS Phillips & Drew believes that NFC, the transport, freight and distribution group formerly known as National Freight Corporation, will report static third-quarter pre-tax profits of £23 million, giving £57 million (£63.5 million) for the first nine months. Market forecasts range from £21 million to £24 million.

Marley, the building materials group, is expected to show interim pre-tax profits of £7.5 million (£16 million), according to County NatWest.

Owing to a lack of space the unlisted securities and investment trusts tables have been held out

## GILT EDGED

### Rally's momentum rests with German slowdown

Few new factors have emerged to influence gilts. The main areas of concern - the timing of the British economic recovery, inflationary pressures, the strength of the German and American economies, funding and the general election - have been occupying the market for some months.

All these features have developed gradually - so gradually, in fact, that implied market volatility (as measured by options on long gilt futures) has fallen to a record low. Despite this, the market has managed to rise by several points from the end-June lows. Can the fundamentals conspire to keep gilt prices moving higher?

At the lowest level, much bad news had been discounted; since then, the government's election prospects have improved a little, while few signs of a strong economic revival have appeared. Also, the market has managed to absorb a steady stream of new issues, including almost £4 billion nominal since the beginning of June. While there are signs of oversupply, exacerbated by last week's £400 million Gefco issue, the market's acceptance of the new paper will have given the authorities hope of meeting this year's funding target.

But the market must continue to digest funding at this rate throughout the year if the government broker rigidly adheres to a full funding policy. Of course, full funding within each year is not a strict requirement. Nevertheless, with a high level of gilt supply needed in the subsequent two years to fund annual PSBRs in excess of £15 billion, the authorities

cannot expect any shortfall this year to be easily made up in following years.

Underfunding might be an attractive option, boosting monetary growth while lightening the funding burden, but as yet does not form part of official government policy. The overseas investor may have to be relied upon to help the funding programme stay on course.

There is a better outlook for gilts as far as the economy is concerned, at least on a one-year horizon. We do not think the long end of the market has any reason to worry that a strong economic recovery will undermine gilt prices.

Continued problems with the corporate and personal sector balance sheets should ensure this is a most disappointing recovery. We expect real GDP to grow by only about 1 per cent next year, a figure so low that the second leg of a "W" type recession would be threatened. However, inflation is unlikely to continue falling next year and there is a risk of wage settlements rising again once company earnings recover and rises in unemployment moderate. The economy will thus not be the instigator of a long-term strong performance in the gilt market.

In the shorter term, the quarter-point rise in Germany's Lombard rate is expected to leave European bond markets in an uncertain state. By itself, this very small rate rise will not be enough to stand in the way of the next half-point cut in British base rates. However, there is no guarantee that the Lombard rate has peaked. Although the

German authorities, judging by their limited actions, are not too concerned about the strength of the economy or rising inflationary pressures, fears of a further rate increase may be widespread. This should prevent British base rates falling below 10.5 per cent this year.

We believe the German economy will slow sharply and inflationary pressures will ease in 1992. Interest rate levels and the impact of tax increases should be enough to quell the inflation rise inspired by monetisation. This slowdown is critical to the performance of European bonds in general, and necessary for the gilt market to make headway. Without it, the combination of funding pressure and increasing political worries will cause the gilt rally to fail eventually.

With the German slowdown, however, gilts may consolidate. Increased cash flows into bonds throughout Europe should encourage the continuation of the overseas investment in the gilt market that has been evident this year. There will be some inhibitions if the weak British economic recovery gives Labour the upper hand in the run-up to the general election, for many potential investors may be wary of allocating funds to sterling-based instruments.

However, there will be more scope for yields to fall if the Conservatives manage to retake the lead in the polls. In this case, the most optimistic scenario, long yields could fall to about 9 per cent by next summer.

STEPHEN SCOTT AND DAVID OWEN  
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# A parable for Mr Major

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

It is mid-August. The sun is shining. The Bundesbank has been merciful. Inflation is only 2 per cent above its level when Nigel Lawson became Chancellor. And today I go on holiday. It is the perfect time to tell an old Jewish story.

A poor farmer calls on his rabbi in desperation. "I am a poor man. I used to live happily with my wife and my three children in a one-room hovel. But last month, my wife, God bless her, gave birth to twins. Then my mother-in-law came to stay and she isn't leaving. Rabbi, I cannot sleep. I cannot work. I cannot eat. The family are driving me out of my mind. What can I do?"

"My friend," says the rabbi. "I shall tell you — but only if you promise to do exactly as I say. You have, I suppose, some chickens in the farmyard? Good. Bring them into your house to live with you, and next week come and talk to me again."

The man returns next week. "How is it?" asks the rabbi. "Rabbi, it's worse than before. The chickens fly everywhere. They chuck all night. The children

break their eggs. I cannot stand it another day."

"Very well," says the rabbi. "You have some goats? Bring them into your house to live with the chickens and come back next week." The man returns again, even more desperate. "It's worse than ever. Rabbi, you must do something to help me."

"I have another idea," the rabbi says. "Do you own a cow? Good. Bring her into the house too and tell me next week if this helps you." The man returns a week later, completely beside himself. "Rabbi, this can't go on. Tonight I will end my life."

"Wait," says the rabbi. "I have one more idea. Take your chickens, your goats and your cow. Put them back in the farmyard, and come back to me tomorrow." The man returns the next day. "How is it?" asks the rabbi. "Rabbi, today I am the happiest man in the world."

What has all this to do with

economics? A great deal. Consider three topical examples — inflation, German interest rates and recession.

Inflation, we are told, is the one unmitigated success of government economic policy. It is the justification for all the nation's other privations. Above all, the triumph over inflation has vindicated the desperate gamble of tying the pound to the mark at an exchange rate of DM2.95.

The success does appear impressive if one follows the Treasury briefing. Friday's inflation figure of 5.5 per cent was almost exactly half the peak rate of 10.9 per cent last October, the Treasury noted. By October, the mandarins added, inflation will

almost certainly be down to 4 per cent.

Splendid, but should the Treasury not remind us how inflation reached 10.9 per cent last year? Reducing inflation is really a matter of putting the chickens, goats and cows back in the farmyard where they belonged.

Inflation was 3.7 per cent in June 1983 when Mr Lawson became Chancellor. The underlying inflation rate, excluding mortgage interest rates and poll tax, remained below 6 per cent until February 1990. Even in October 1990, this underlying rate was only 8.4 per cent. In other words, the accelerating inflation of the late-Eighties was largely due to the government's own policies of raising the interest rate and poll

tax with no regard to the impact on the RPI and the knock-on effects on wages.

Why did the government do this? The poll tax may have been a one-off political blunder, but the reasons for raising interest rates are all too relevant today. The Treasury was panicked into raising interest rates by crises of confidence in sterling, culminating with Mr Major's elevation to Chancellor in October 1989.

Mr Major's 15 per cent interest rates were imposed to defend an overvalued exchange rate, not to prevent inflation. Far from curbing inflation, the rise in mortgage rates was its main cause.

Excluding the effects of interest rates, VAT and poll tax, inflation today is about 6.8 per cent. A year ago it was 7 per cent and a year before that it was 5.9 per cent. All Mr Major has achieved in the past six months has been to undo his own handiwork.

Now what would the rabbi

make of German interest rate policy? The markets had braced themselves for a half-point rise, so when rates were raised by a mere quarter-point they first breathed a sigh of relief and then concluded that the Bundesbank had "chickened out".

The speculators have forgotten that Germany's rates are already unusually high in relation to its inflationary record and astonishingly high relative to rates in America and Britain. Against this background, even a quarter-point rise in German interest rates should have set off a surge in the mark against both the dollar and sterling. Watch out, this may yet occur.

As for the recession, this is the rabbi's parable in its purest form. The government has pummeled the economy more fiercely and relentlessly than anyone had imagined possible. Sooner or later the bashing will stop. The country will then be expected to sing the government's praises — and perhaps it will.

John Major may not be very good at economics. But, like the rabbi, he may have human nature on his side.

# Toll road marks high risk turn for the better in transport policy

Ross Tieman

says Britain's first pay-as-you-go motorway signals a much-needed change of approach

HOW can we finance a solution to Britain's overburdened and under-financed transport system? Not since the 19th century has infrastructure cried out so sorely for an increased share of national wealth. Roads, rail, the London Underground and our air traffic control system are all inadequate.

One solution is to restrict use by making them more expensive. But that does not address the need to keep pace with technological advances and shifting patterns of trade.

Without unacceptable sacrifices elsewhere, it is hard to see how the public purse can redress decades of insufficient and ill-directed investment. Driven by necessity, the government has already begun to seek new ways of funding transport programmes.

The announcement last week of Britain's first toll road for two centuries is one such step.

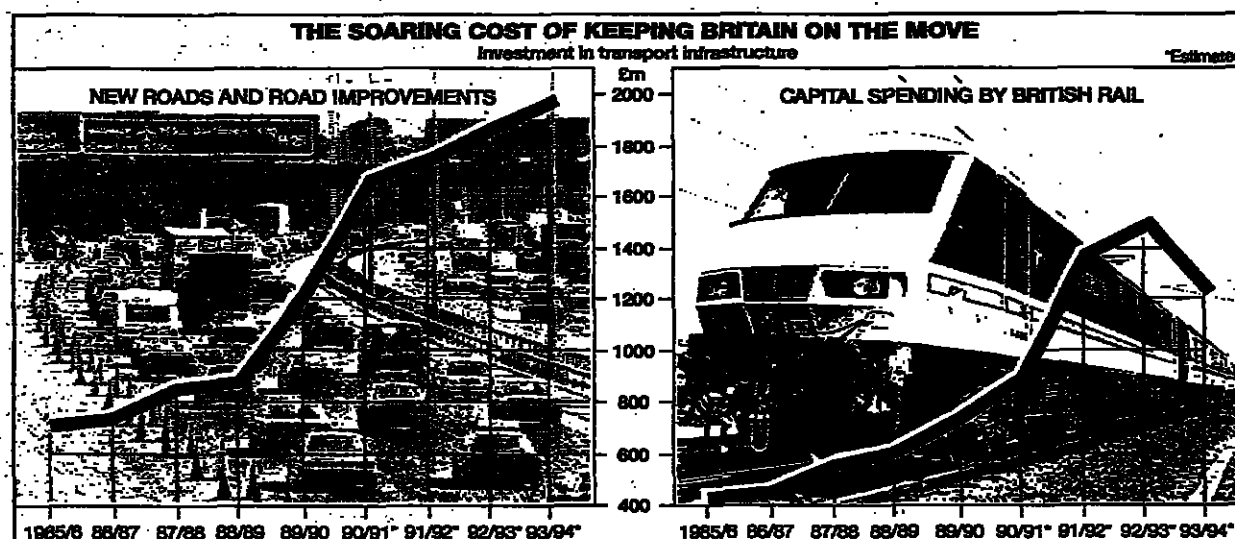
The Birmingham Northern Relief Road will be a 27-mile, three-lane motorway by-passing the section of the M6 through the West Midlands conurbation. Car drivers will pay £1.50, in 1990 prices, to use it and lorries twice that.

The road will be built and operated for 53 years by Midland Expressway, a joint venture between Trafalgar House, the construction to shipping group, and Jalsat, the Italian toll motorway group. But the venture faces considerable risks.

Midland Expressway will have to borrow the money to build the road. If the motorway opens on target in 1997, interest costs could lift the total bill to £450 million.

But obtaining planning consent may not be easy. Many Britons find toll roads abhorrent. Objectors may fight more strenuously if they perceive that they are being asked to sacrifice their homes to the pursuit of private profit.

Recovering the outlay may not be straightforward either. The road is expected to carry 50,000 vehicles a day. If a third were lorries, the road



would earn revenue of £100,000 a day. Assuming a similar number of vehicles every day of the year, it would take a minimum of 12.3 years to repay the construction cost, plus interest.

In practice, with inflation edging up the charges, Midland Expressway expects to recover its outlay in about half that period. Thereafter, the road should become a highly profitable cash cow. But projections of traffic flows in the next century are fraught with hazard. Historic trends suggest ever increasing car use. Yet carbon taxes, dearer oil, and who knows what social shifts could upset the delicate balance between interest bills and revenue.

These are factors that the banks funding the project will have to think about carefully. So far, at least, they appear to have few worries. Contractors are so confident about their

ability to raise cash that they have shown great interest in transport department suggestions for a Western Orbital route to complete the Birmingham outer ring, a link between the M25 and Chelmsford, Essex, and a second Tamar crossing in Devon. Four less advanced transport department projects are a lower Thames crossing, a new Mersey crossing leading to Liverpool Airport, a shortlink between the M1 and the A1 in North London, and a link between the M25 and Rayleigh, Essex. A consortium involving industry and local authorities is also advocating a new east coast motorway.

Private spending on the Birmingham road would provide a hefty increment to a public road programme that is already growing quite fast. Yet rail investment will start to fall again in 1993-4, once connections to the Channel tunnel are complete. Transport

infrastructure's appetite for spending cannot be overstated. Too little has been done for too long. To improve business efficiency and quality of life, Britain must solve the problems of urban congestion and reorientate transport patterns to accommodate the emergence of Europe as our main trading partner.

The Channel tunnel is a step in that direction. But the experience of the tunnel provides grim lessons for private transport projects. Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French group building the link, was almost overwhelmed by runaway costs and the problems of raising finance. Although set to open on schedule in June 1993, the £7.5 billion link will have cost almost twice what was expected. And trains that have crossed France at up to 180 mph will be lucky to travel at half that speed once in Britain.

Sir Alastair Morton, chief executive of Eurotunnel, has become increasingly outspoken about the shortcomings of Britain's transport system. This autumn, he will spell out further his proposals for a pollution tax, imposed on all forms of transport, to fund improved links with Europe.

Sir Alastair believes the "abominable 'No men'" of the Treasury must share the blame with the former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, and several of her predecessors, for Britain's plight.

His solution is a hybrid concept designed to direct a limited flow of tax revenue into private sector schemes. The proposal overcomes the difficulty faced by all such projects: a high capital outlay, and revenues which build only slowly once the link is in use.

Sir Alastair suggests his Transport Investment Fund could help finance a toll road from the M1 to Farnborough, in Suffolk, the Heathrow-Farnborough rail link, a rail freight link from the Irish Sea ports to the Humber and Channel tunnel and a high-speed rail line from London to the tunnel. A new air traffic control system would be an obvious addition to the list.

The proposal has the virtue of being financed by a tax on the inconvenience caused to others by those moving around. And it would recoup part of the profit from tolls, enabling the state to share the rewards from private investment in exchange for reducing the risks.

Even if it proves politically acceptable, Sir Alastair's scheme leaves the problems of urban congestion to be addressed. Toll roads and a Transport Investment Fund are useful contributions to the debate. But there is still plenty of room for new ideas.

## Morton's £20bn method



Morton: index-linked plan

TRANSPORT systems — road, rail and air — would be awarded an index value according to the amount of noise and fumes they emit, the volume of land they take up, and the accidental death and injury they cause, under Sir Alastair Morton's proposal.

The index would form the basis of a new pollution tax paid by vehicle operators. The tax would raise £4 billion a year for five years, rolled up with interest into a Transport Investment Fund managed by an independent board dominated by private sector directors.

Fund investments in private sector schemes would take the form of mezzanine capital,

which would rank ahead of equity, but behind secured debt. Interest would be charged only at the level of inflation until the project was complete. Then the fund would receive fixed interest payments, plus dividends or revenues from the charges to travellers. Once revenues from completed projects started to flow, the fund would become self-perpetuating.

The pollution tax would probably be in addition to existing taxes. It would be likely to bear most heavily upon motorists. Funds would be used to finance projects that improve Britain's connections with Europe.

"Two gentlemen in kilts," grows a disbelieving Miller. "No doubt in the Costa del Sol." Chris Greig, Invergordon's managing director, has few good words for Whyte & Mackay, even though he owns 2 million shares in his company and stands to make £5 million if the bid succeeds.

Pizza excess AMERICAN bankers, known for huge appetites, have surpassed themselves in the quest for food. Gents at Salomons and Goldman Sachs have, it seems, developed a craving for pizzas from a Chelsea chain. Now, fleets of black cabs have been arriving at a branch in the Old Brompton Road at lunch-time, to shuttle pizzas back to the City. "It's phenomenal, most of them spend Saturday afternoon there too," says a regular.

Pain in Spain WHYTE & Mackay's bid for Invergordon Distillers has sent shock waves through the peaceful Highlands. James Miller, Invergordon chairman, is furious at reports that his company held talks with Whyte & Mackay before the bid and that the American-owned bidders say their hand was forced after a leak via whisky salesmen in Spain.

SIGN at a Yeovil, Somerset greengrocer: "Our new potatoes are in mint condition."

No business THE demise of *Business* magazine has left a gap on newsstands, but its ghost lives on. Condé Nast and Financial Times Group, the joint owners, have written to subscribers, offering a switch to other magazines in the group like *GO* and *Investors Chronicle*.

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## CAPITAL MARKETS

# GrandMet issue oozes confidence

LAST week's blockbusting \$900 million Yankee bond issue from Grand Metropolitan must surely rank as one of the most spectacular capital market launches ever by a British corporation.

The deal oozed confidence. Most foreign companies making their first issue in the American debt markets would content themselves with a modest issue, perhaps \$100 million or \$150 million. Not GrandMet. The issue, led by Morgan Stanley and co-managed by Goldman Sachs, was the largest by a British company and has been exceeded only by a handful of American corporate borrowers.

Spreads on the three tranches of the deal have remained tight, with the ten-year note and the 20-year debenture widening by a couple of basis points. The launch spread on the five-year note was 70 basis points, on the ten-year note 76 basis points and for the 20-year debenture 92 basis points.

The stability looks all the more impressive when compared with a 30-year Yankee launched by Seagram, the

Canadian drinks company, the day before GrandMet's deal. The Seagram deal opened at 87.5 basis points over, but was 40 per cent unsold and widened to 105 basis points.

American investors were attracted by GrandMet's impressive international portfolio of brands, many of which, Häagen Dazs and Burger King, for example, are household names. The fact that the owner was a British company slightly complicated the issue, as many American investors have limits on the proportion of assets that can be invested in foreign companies. Hence the triple tranche structure, allowing a broad range of investors. The five-year note was aimed at

university funds, investment advisers and money managers. The ten-year deal appealed to state and corporate pension funds and general insurers, while the 20-year debenture won support from life insurers. At least 100 institutions took up the bonds. The structure also gave the borrower a healthy spread of maturities in its borrowing portfolio.

GrandMet has never been known as a shy and cautious borrower on the capital markets. Its \$6 billion Pillsbury acquisition facility of 1988 was the largest of a slew of similar findings during the late Eighties and had the added novelty of being arranged in-house. The \$2.5 billion refinancing announced in June also caught the eye for its aggressive margins and fees when the bankers are supposed to be calling the shots.

In these days of credit crunches and liquidity crises it is good to see at least one British company that seems to be able to raise huge amounts of capital when and on the terms that it wants.

JONATHAN PRYNN



Akzo nv Registered Office at Arnhem

Report for the 1st half year 1991

Consolidated statement of income		January-June 1991	
		1991	1990
Net sales	Millions of guilders	8,553.3	8,899.9
Operating costs		(7,914.2)	(8,161.3)
Operating income		621.1	738.6
Financing charges		(134.9)	(195.1)
Operating income less financing charges		486.2	543.5
Taxes		(175.1)	(193.5)
Earnings of consolidated companies from normal operations, after taxes		311.1	350.0
Earnings from nonconsolidated companies		39.5	58.1
Extraordinary items		15.3	
Group income		365.9	410.1
Minority interest		16.8	(2.7)
Net income		382.7	407.4
Net income per common share (in guilders)		8.62	9.17
Common stock		888.4	888.4

Sales and income In the second quarter of 1991 a net income of Hfl 191 million was achieved, compared with Hfl 206 million in the second quarter of 1990.

Operating income of Hfl 324 million was down Hfl 38 million from last year's second quarter. Substantially lower results for chemical products and fibers were partially offset by higher operating income for healthcare products.

Net income for the first half of the year aggregated Hfl 383 million, versus Hfl 407 million in the first half of 1990. Net income per common share for the first half of the year was Hfl 8.62 versus Hfl 9.17 for the same period last year.

Second-quarter sales of Hfl 4.3 billion were at about the same level as last year. A 2% decrease in shipments was offset by on

average 1% higher selling prices and 1% higher translation rates. Sales for the first half of 1991 amounted to Hfl 8.5 billion.

Operating income for the first half of 1991 was Hfl 621 million; this is equivalent to 7.2% of sales, compared with 8.3% in last year's corresponding period. For the second quarter this ratio was 7.5%, versus 8.4% last year.

Outlook Barring any adverse changes in the economy, we expect that 1991 net income before extraordinary items will slightly lag behind last year's earnings figure, despite moderate expectations for the third quarter.

Arnhem, August 2, 1991  
The Board of Management

Sales and operating income by product group break down as follows (in millions of guilders):

Net sales	1st half year		Operating income	1st half year	
	1991	1990		1991	1990
Chemical products	2,856	2,988	Chemical products	166	234
Fibers	2,310	2,509	Fibers	93	137
Coatings	1,907	2,061	Coatings	110	164
Healthcare products	1,496	1,383	Healthcare products	251	210
Miscellaneous products and intra-Group deliveries	(34)	(41)	Miscellaneous products and nonallocated items	1	(6)
Total	8,555	8,900	Total	621	739

Copies of this report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Bank PLC, Stock Exchange Services Department, 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3 AH and Midland Securities Service, Suffolk House, Paying Agency Section, 5 Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0 EU. The report for the 3rd quarter of 1991 will be published on October 31, 1991.

501-588

## Second Conquest

ROBERT Conquest, one of the most revered experts on Soviet affairs, and a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, will be proud of the achievements of his son, Richard, chief economist at the Daiwa Institute of Research (Europe). Richard, himself an expert on Soviet and central European economies, has been appointed to the Independent Treasury Economic Modelling Club (IEM) charged with considering international affairs. He takes over from Doug Jones who is the newly-appointed global fixed income strategist at Country NatWest. "I spoke Russian before I could speak English," says Richard, whose father is the author of *Power and Policy in the USSR*, *The Great Terror* and *The Harvest of Sorrow*.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

WHAT'S in a name? Despite the property slump, a firm of estate agents in Newport, Gwent, appears to be thriving under the unlikely name of Crook & Blight.

Incredible bulk IN TIMES of recession it sometimes pays to take matters into your own hands. The proof is Richard Lee, a 6ft 3in body-builder from Cheam, Surrey, who has set up a protection and security company named, appropriately, Massive Security. Lee, aged 26, and of 18 stone, has been building up his muscles for six years and holds the *Mr South East Britain* and *Mr Titan* titles. "I am determined

to approach this project with the dedication and commitment I put into my body-building," he says ominously.

No business THE demise of *Business* magazine has left a gap on newsstands, but its ghost lives on. Condé Nast and Financial Times Group, the joint owners, have written to subscribers, offering a switch to other magazines in the group like *GO* and *Investors Chronicle*. Since *Business* was published monthly and *Investors Chronicle* is weekly, Malcolm Andrew, a private client broker at Sheppards, thought his luck was in. "It's news to us, but why don't you speak to Condé

Naste," a surprised employee told him. When he got through, a baffled staffer suggested he put in a call... to *Business*.

Pain in Spain WHYTE & Mackay's bid for Invergordon Distillers has sent shock waves through the peaceful Highlands. James Miller, Invergordon chairman, is furious at reports that his company held talks with Whyte & Mackay before the bid and that the American-owned bidders say their hand was forced after a leak via whisky salesmen in Spain.

JON ASHWORTH



**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES**

**Capitalisation and change on week**

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 2. Dealings end August 30. <sup>(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)</sup> Contango day September 2. Settlement day September 9.  
<sup>\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.</sup>

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

[illegible]

114.4m	Gerrard Nat	294	-17	27.3	9.3	9
91.8m	Guinness Mahon	46				
3,636.0m	HSBC	275	+13			
483.4m	Hambros	291	-4	17.1	6.1	8
19.3m	Joseph (Leopold)	368	-20	21.1	6.7	17
18.4m	Krug & Sherson	117		13.7	11.7	

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

7,161,000	Zandbergen	58	..	..	..	..
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MOTORS, AIRCRAFT						
43.5m	Appelgren	82	+5	10.4	11.2	10.9
1,474.8m	for Aerospace	588	+4	23.9	5.5	8.0
16.7m	Cashy	323	+10	15.7	4.7	28.4
128.0m	Cumis (T)	97	● +4	5.3	5.8	13.9
17.4m	Dag Motors	102	● +2	7.8	7.7	
16.8m	Davenport Vernon	82	● +5	5.5	6.5	8.4
480.0m	Dowty	125	● +4	12.3	6.8	12.2

107,288	FH Group	145	0	+4	8.5	5.9	7.2
5,999,466	Ford Motor	519*	0	-2	..	..	..
6,669,590	General Motor	116	0	-2	..	..	..
487,500	Honda Motor	622	0	+2	..	..	..
3,985,000	Jacobs (Petro)	41	1	..	..	..	..
1,000,000	Jeanscap	51	..	..	8.2	12.2	8.7
287,000	Kraftco	136	0	+3	6.7	2.7	28.2
191,000	Lex. Service	211	0	+4	17.5	8.5	14.5
35,200	Lon-Ton	..	..	..	5.3	..	..

48.5m	Piedragon	159	+1	5.5	5.5	7.3
28.5m	Perry Go	158	+3	7.2	4.5	10.2
25.5m	Perry Go	150	+3	12.0	7.5	14.5
15.5m	Predator Group	42	..	5.0	14.3	35.5
385.0m	Quests Group	56	..	4.0	8.9	..
501.7m	Rolls-Royce	155	+6	9.7	8.2	8.1
27.5m	Trinaco	22	..	1.8	8.6	20.4
109.5m	Westland	119	+5	5.0	4.2	10.5

98.5m	BFP	220	-10	2.4	3.8	14.4
28.5m	Barbour Index	193	..	8.8	5.4	11.6
501.0m	Black (A&C)	480		17.3	3.6	35.9
290.0m	Blomhorn Op	985	+29	23.0	2.9	18.5
48.5m	Bristol	304	+8	15.3	5.6	21.3
243.0m	Daily Mail	349	+4	148	3.0	14.0
222.1m	Daily Mail 'A'	245	+4	149	3.3	12.6
348.0m	EMAP	245	+7	8.2	3.8	17.3

578,000	Quorum (OO)	54	1.0	8.8	11.1	8.8
528.0	Haynes Publishing	127	..	2.8	2.3	6.4
17.4m	Hill Country	174	-1	11.0	8.5	9.2
1,042,000	Int Bus Comm	2	..	..	..	..
111.4m	Independent	305	..	..	..	..
71.5m	Johnstone Press	255	..	8.7	2.6	17.1
2,283.8m	Macmillan Comm	187	..	20.0	10.2	20.4
	Mason Corp	439	..	..	..	..

1,035,525	Pearson	748	-	35.5	4.3	--
35.7m	Portsmouth Sund	255	-15	31.0	4.1	12.5
2,542,525	Reed Int	456	--	11.7	3.7	11.2
5,655,000	Southern	252	+19	20.0	4.4	18.3
1,941,015	Thomson Corp	88	+3	1.1	2.0	--
139,500	Trinity Int'l	725	--	--	--	--
785,400	Utd Newspapers	247	+6	10.7	4.3	11.5
		364	+18	28.0	7.3	12.0

OILS, GAS					
70,400	Arco Energy	27	..	..	..
604,000	Atlantic Resources	34	..	..	..
—	Amc Oil & Gas	..	..	..	..
25 Nov	Amc Res. Inc.	10	..	..	..

39.0m	Hydrex	7			77.8
39.0m	Br Borneo	217	+2	28.4	13.1 9.0
243.0m	British Gas	284	-1	18.7	8.3 9.3
7.895.0m	Br Petroleum	352	-8	22.1	6.7 10.5
1.081.4m	Bussiah Control	582	+14	30.7	6.3 11.7
29.7m	Calm Energy	110			
378.2m	Cator Op	225	+2	18.8	7.1 12.2

122.3m	Anglian Water	361	0+17	23.3	8.1	8.3
245.6m	Northumbrian	371	0+2	24.6	8.7	8.7
327.2m	North West	373	0+7	24.0	8.4	5.9
298.5m	Southern	341	0+13	23.4	8.9	6.3
550.3m	South Water	338	0+11	23.8	7.9	6.5
457.5m	South West	356	0+13	26.7	7.5	5.4
429.3m	Thames Water	372	0+6	23.3	6.3	6.0
533.1m	Welsh Water					

730.0m Yorkshire Water	381	0+0	23.6	8.0	8.7
	383	0+4	26.6	6.2	7.9

a Ex dividend b Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim  
 payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and  
 bid exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures i  
 forecast earnings j Ex other k Ex rights l Ex scrip or  
 share split m Tax-free ... No significant date

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- Mechanical • Mechanical (Marine) • Mechanical and Manufacturing • Mechanical and Production • History • Literature Life & Thought • Technology Management • Maritime Studies • Modern Language Studies • P.G.C.E. Art and Design • P.G.C.E. Design and Technology
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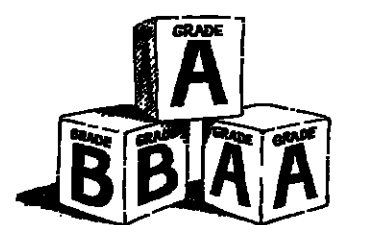
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# Pace hots up in the university challenge

Since A-level results came out, students have been phoning a helpline every 30 seconds, reports John O'Leary

Everything is bigger and better about this year's post-A-level scramble. There were more passes, better grades, more higher education places available, more applicants for them, and more advice available than ever before on what to do next.

Most polytechnics and some universities are running their own hotlines for prospective students. There are radio and television programmes, computer databases and private advice services. Many local careers services are also manning special advice desks.

Some fortunate applicants will already have received offers of university or polytechnic places. Admissions tutors had the A-level results several days before they were published, and many have been working over the weekend to finalise their offers.

Competition for places throughout higher education is going to be intense in the most popular subjects, although universities, polytechnics and colleges are all looking for more candidates this year. The number of applications has been rising steadily for some time. In addition to the larger crop of A-level candidates, extra competition comes from those who took a year off between school and higher education, as



The agony and the ecstasy: how Thames television captured the excitement as students at Reading, Berkshire, opened their exam results

well as the growing number of older applicants. The result has been 30,000 more applications to polytechnics and colleges, and almost 20,000 more to universities.

There were big increases in applications to universities for language and business courses, as well as less obvious areas such as sociology. Only a few subjects, such as accountancy, biochemistry and pharmacy were down in 1990. Keith Clayton, the senior admissions officer at the University

of East Anglia, says that it is impossible to generalise about the chances of obtaining a higher education place this year. "Some subjects are going against the national trend of rising standards," he says. "Every department is dealing with such a small sample that the sort of variations reported nationally make very little difference."

Mike Scott, the deputy chief executive at the Polytechnics and Colleges Admissions System, says that increased competition has

forced up offers by an average of one grade, and worried students were starting to shop around for vacant places even before they had seen their results. "With fewer jobs around because of the recession, I would expect more students to choose to retake A-levels if they fail to find a place, so it could be even more difficult to get in next year," he says.

For those whose results did not match their expectations, this year is bad enough. Before the weekend, calls were coming into BBC

Radio 5's student helpline at the rate of one every 30 seconds. Confidential advice from careers officers and specialists from the National Union of Students will be available all week on 0345 909693.

The clearing process to allocate unfilled places begins this week for universities, polytechnics and colleges. Subscribers to the Campus 2000 electronic information network will have access to the latest course vacancies from Wednesday onwards.

Rupert Steiner, right, felt bad about his exam results but did not despair and found another route to college



Students whose worst fears were realised when they opened the envelope containing their A-level results, need not despair. Something can be done about it.

One option is to re-sit them, either in one term or the following June. This can be done at school or at a local college, but crammers, or tutorial colleges, are specialists at getting students through A-levels.

I performed terribly the first time, passing only government and politics with a D, and failed economics and geography with a U and an N. My parents agreed to spend an amount equivalent to a Volkswagen Golf, so long as I was committed to work. We had interviews at four of the main crammers in London. Most are similar and often have the same tutors travelling between the different colleges. My principal, Peter Boorman, discussed the options with me, and we decided I would benefit from a one-year course, re-sitting geography and replacing economics with business studies.

At school, I did little background reading, and concentrated more on being a prefect. Nevertheless, I believe the quality of teaching is a direct influence on a class's ability. A-levels are not degrees and there should be a fair amount of direct input or "feed-

ing". At the crammer, the tutors concentrate on their one subject which they teach year in, year out, often covering the same topics three times, with different groups, in any one week.

At school, I found teachers were called on to teach various subjects, and never really got to grips with a particular one. Examinations involve a kind of confidence trick: if you believe you can do it, the effects of stress and fear are countered. I found a tutor who inspired an infectious confidence.

There are few restrictions at a crammer. You can wear what you like, and attend only when there is a tutorial. They tend to be small so that you benefit from more individual tuition.

We practised every question several times, which is the key to passing, and became familiar with the style of the papers in the real examination.

The second time I was far more relaxed, and improved my grades — a C in geography and a B in business studies. I am still amazed as when I first opened the envelope. For me, crammers worked a miracle, and university was well worth the wait.

Rupert Steiner is about to start his final year at Wye College, University of London, reading agricultural economics

The 11-plus examination, which used to represent the gold standard for the younger age group, has been further undermined by research in Northern Ireland.

Although comprehensive schools now predominate in England, several education authorities still use the 11-plus to determine entry to selective secondary schools. In Ulster, where grammar schools thrive, the examination remains the norm for the age group.

The latest research in the province suggests, however, that the growing practice of coaching children for the 11-plus is distorting the results. Extra tuition can double most children's scores and may have a greater influence on marks than ability.

Performance improves so dramatically with constant coaching that it is

questionable whether the verbal and mathematical tests used to select entrants to grammar school are a yardstick for anything other than what training can effect.

A comparison between those who received, and did not receive 11-plus coaching, conducted by Dr Brendan Bunting, an Ulster university psychologist, and Marguerite Egan, another researcher, found that no pupil in the uncoached group would have passed, even those shown by different academic criteria to have ability. The gap in performance between the coached and the uncoached was three times greater

than results from England in the Fifties, confirming the claim that children can be taught to do intelligence tests.

In Dr Bunting's trial, two 11-plus tests, newly issued by the education department in Northern Ireland as specimen papers, were given to two groups in their final year at primary school, a week before the real exam. The first group, 189 pupils from two Belfast schools, had received intensive

coaching for a year. The second, 184 pupils from County Armagh, one of the few areas in Ulster to offer comprehensive education, had been given no coaching.

After the second 11-plus exam, all pupils were assessed on Raven's Progressive Matrices tests, a separate gauge of ability, claimed to be "an index of intellectual capacity, irrespective of acquired knowledge".

## Another failure for the 11-plus

Research shows that coaching children is distorting the selection procedure to some secondary schools

The results showed a large disparity in the mean scores of the two groups, with the coached pupils often as much as 40 points ahead of a possible 100. This group also improved its score on the second 11-plus paper, taken a month after the first, while the average score among those who had no coaching dropped by one point.

When the 11-plus scores were set against their measured ability level, pupils of equal intelligence achieved an 11-plus score of 63 when they had been coached, but only 29 if they had not. Similar results were produced in the second test which showed a score of 66

for the coached and again a score of 29 for the uncoached.

The researchers are convinced that coaching achieves effects which are no reflection of ability. "The result might lead one to conclude that results in the 11-plus are a measure of coaching effectiveness," they write. "If this were equal, which it is plainly not, ability might possibly come into play."

The researchers conclude: "This highlights the problem of using 11-plus tests to indicate those who are most likely to benefit from a grammar school education, since the results are to a large extent dependent on coaching. Those who did not receive coaching obtained very poor marks and in no case would one of these students have passed this selection procedure."

CARMEL McQUAID

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# When dedication is child's play

Japanese children living in Cardiff love going to school at the weekend. Iola Smith reports

A new school year for a special group of pupils starts in Cardiff next Saturday. Welsh children may still be cking out the last weeks of their holidays, but children from the growing Japanese community are already getting back to work.

The early start is a reflection of the longer periods spent at school in Japan and the amount of learning to be squeezed into a few hours a week. Like thousands of other expatriate Japanese, the 120 Cardiff pupils learn to read, write and speak their native language only on Saturday mornings.

Mastering the 1,500 intricate characters needed to become fluent usually takes nine years. Yet 14-year-old Kanae Matsumoto and her fellow pupils have to perfect their skills in a fraction of that time.

"My father, who works for Awa, was moved to Gwent two years ago," she explains. "So to keep up with my Japanese and mathematics, I joined the Cardiff Japanese Saturday school. I am glad I did, because I am going home next month. Had I not attended the Cardiff school, I am sure I would find it very difficult to get back into our competitive education system."

Smoothing the return path for Kanae and the other Japanese children, aged six to 16, in south Wales, is the school's intention. Financed by parents, who pay £20 a term, and staffed by 13 qualified teachers, it offers tuition in Japanese language and literature, together with extensive revision in mathematics.

"I find maths easier here than in Japan," Kanae says. "I was amazed when I arrived at Bassaleg comprehensive in Newport that my friends were allowed to use calculators. At home, we have to work everything out in our heads."

The head teacher, Tomoko Boyd, concedes that maths is a problem for some returnees. "It is not taught here at the same frenetic pace as in Japan," she says. "In Britain, our children love the subject and shine in it. But when



Chopsticks and comics: pupils enjoy a break at the Japanese school in Cardiff where they master their intricate language (right)

they return home, they can find that they are way behind their classmates." Despite Britain's mathematical shortcomings and excessively European view of history and geography, Mrs Boyd approves of our relaxed approach to education.

"It is much less of a rat race," she says. "In Japan, pupils can be at school from 7.30 in the morning until 9 at night, moving from day school to a crammer in an attempt to pass their exams. Here children

have time for sport or going to parties. In Japan, it is just school work all the time."

As well as leading the Saturday school, Mrs Boyd teaches GCSE Japanese to fifth-formers in Bristol. She is delighted that Britain is finally adopting a national curriculum. "It is so much easier for children whose parents have to move. Japanese children around the world study the same textbooks. Eight-year-olds in Cardiff, for example, learn the same Japa-

nese characters as their counterparts in Osaka. To ensure uniformity, our texts are produced by the Japanese government."

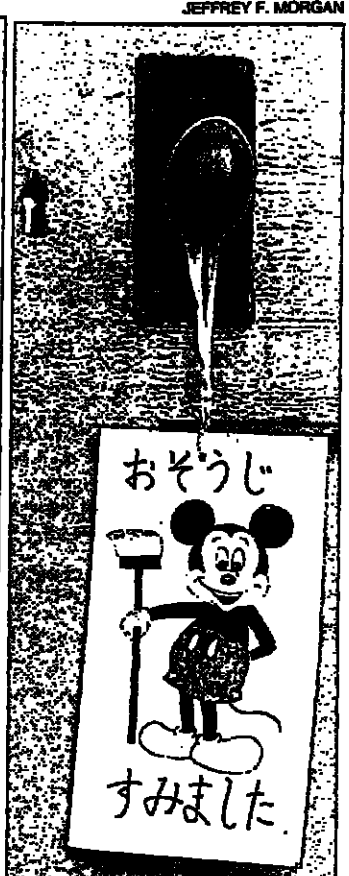
The Japanese government also takes an interest in training teachers. Next month it will run a three-day course in Cardiff for teachers from the UK's six Japanese Saturday schools. Library books are provided for the Cardiff school by Welsh-based Japanese companies and the Welsh Development Agency. Both groups see the school as one of the reasons Wales is the biggest Japanese manufacturing region in Europe.

Most of the Japanese children integrate easily into the British schools, although Kanae Arai, a 16-year-old who has been in Wales for only three months, admits that she finds English difficult. "But I will stick at it so that in two years I can do my GCSEs," she says. "After that, perhaps, I will be able to realise my dream of becoming a Japanese teacher here in Britain."

Although the Japanese pupils have at least two hours of language homework a week and a similar amount of mathematics, some of the younger ones prefer the Saturday school to their weekday British primary. "I look forward to Saturday because all my friends come and we speak Japanese together," says Hiromi Tsuda, who is aged eight. "I quite like learning English in the week, but I prefer to speak Japanese."

The opportunity to practise his mother tongue is important to Hiromi. Next year he returns to school in Osaka. "Fitting in should not be hard because I am doing the same poems and reading the same nature stories as they are. But unlike them, I can speak English."

Mrs Boyd says that despite the early start to the new school year, every minute is not spent on academic work. "We have lunch breaks, where the children eat Japanese dishes of fish and rice prepared by their parents, and, once a year, we have sports day and a school trip. 'This year we shall visit Brecon and Merthyr to see the landscape and wildlife of the Beacons, and to learn a little about the industrial history of the communities in which we live'."



## Cashing in on exams

PARENTS have always been as nervous as their children when public examination results are due, but not because they had money riding on the outcome. Increasingly, however, many now do.

Fred Mycock, of Thornton Cleveleys, in Lancashire, won £200 from a bookmaker after his son Scott achieved the top grades in his four A-levels. The proud father is giving the money to his son, who knew nothing of the bet.

Graham Sharpe, of William Hill, says: "It's back to school for us. We were obviously over-generous to offer 10-1."

Mr Sharpe's employer stands to lose even more this week if Sheila Misra, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, manages eight grade As in her GCSE examinations. Her parents staked £30 at odds of 16-1. Betting on examinations is still rare but it may spread. The practice started last year when a parent won £1,000 on his son's A-levels. The boy's headmaster also bet £10 and put half his £200 winnings into school funds.

## Calculated risk

TEACHERS in Scotland have been given an official warning about calculators in primary classrooms, but new guidelines on mathematics issued last week stop well short of insisting on a return to traditional methods.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, endorsed advice from experts that calculators should not be allowed to provide unnecessary support, or substitute for the development of personal proficiency.

## Name game

CHAMPAGNE is on offer to anybody who can solve the dilemma facing Oxford polytechnic as it prepares to change its title to university - a problem facing every polytechnic which shares a city with a university. Clive Booth, the director of Oxford polytechnic, has offered a magnum for the best suggestion. The only stipulation is that the name must contain the words Oxford and university, says Andrew Smith, the chairman of the governors, and Labour's higher education spokesman. What could be easier?

## Actor's new role

CLIFF ROBERTSON, the American film and television actor, repaid a debt to Edinburgh university's centre for continuing education by lec-



turing at the university's film festival summer school. Last winter, he attended classes in Scottish history and literature while visiting Edinburgh. Last week, he agreed to swap roles to give a session on the US film industry, and his career as an actor, writer and director.

JOHN O'LEARY

## State success

SOME good news at last for state schools. They may have a poor reputation among the population as a whole, but most parents with children at school are satisfied with their performance.

A Mori poll for the National Consumer Council found that although fewer than 50 per cent of people in England and Wales were satisfied with primary schools, and only 37 per cent with secondary schools, among those with children of primary school age, the rate rose to 70 per cent. Sixty per cent of those with children between 11 and 15 were also satisfied.

## Business venture

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The objective of UNU/INTECH is to undertake policy-relevant research on the economic and social impacts of new technologies, especially - but not exclusively - on developing countries. To do this, UNU/INTECH will set up a small "in-house" team of researchers composed of economists, political scientists, sociologists and technologists.

UNU/INTECH seeks to make one, possibly two appointments in early 1992 and invites applications for these posts. Successful candidate(s) will be qualified in one or other of the disciplinary fields mentioned above, and will have a considerable experience of policy research related to questions of technological change and innovation. Appointment(s) will be fixed term contracts of between two and four years. The United Nations University Institute for New Technologies, as part of the United Nations common system, offers competitive international salaries, benefits and allowances. Net emolument for the above positions ranges between US\$50,100-US\$69,500 at the dependency rate, and US\$46,500-US\$63,900 at the single rate.

Candidates are asked to enclose a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees. Applications or requests for further information should be sent to Professor Charles Cooper, Director UNU/INTECH, Kapoenstraat 23, 6211 KV Maastricht, The Netherlands.

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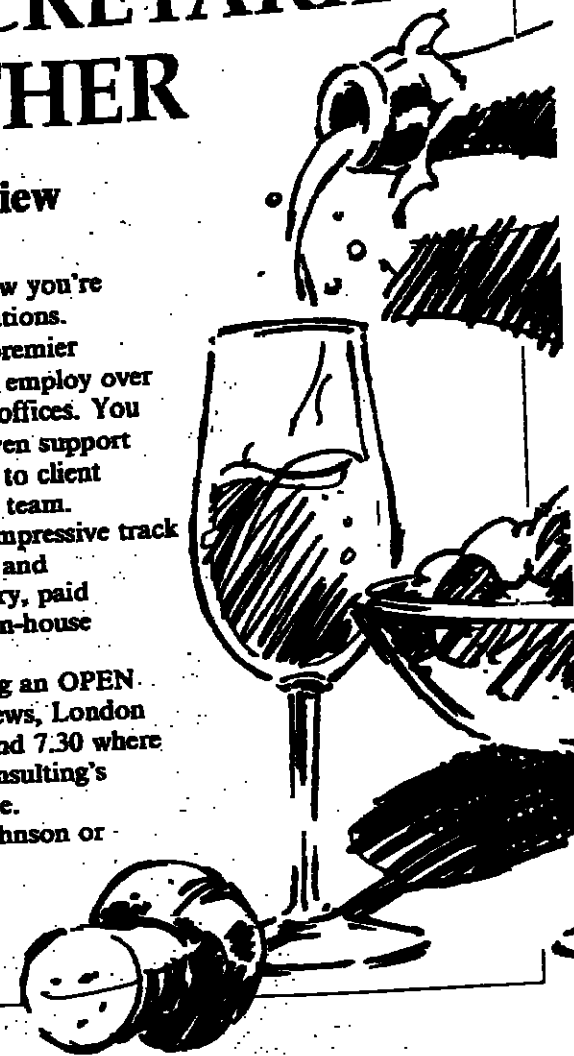
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Full details and entry forms can be obtained from the Admissions Secretary (Ms T. Wycombe Abbey School, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP11 1PE. Telephone number: 0494 528381). The closing date for entries is 30 September 1991.

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Sri Lankans stumble in build-up to Lord's

# Jayasuriya offers a sound case for place in Test team

By JOHN WOODCOCK

HOVE (second day of three; Sri Lankans won toss): Sussex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 103 runs ahead of the Sri Lankans

PRESENTED with an ideal opportunity to play themselves in to form for the Test match, beginning on Thursday at Lord's, the only Sri Lankans to make the most of it were Jayasuriya and Atapattu, who are thought to be vying for the same place in the Test side. Jayasuriya made the first hundred of the tour and Atapattu his own first 50, enabling the Sri Lankans to declare 50 runs to behind with a view to bidding for the sponsor's Telford Bitter prize today.

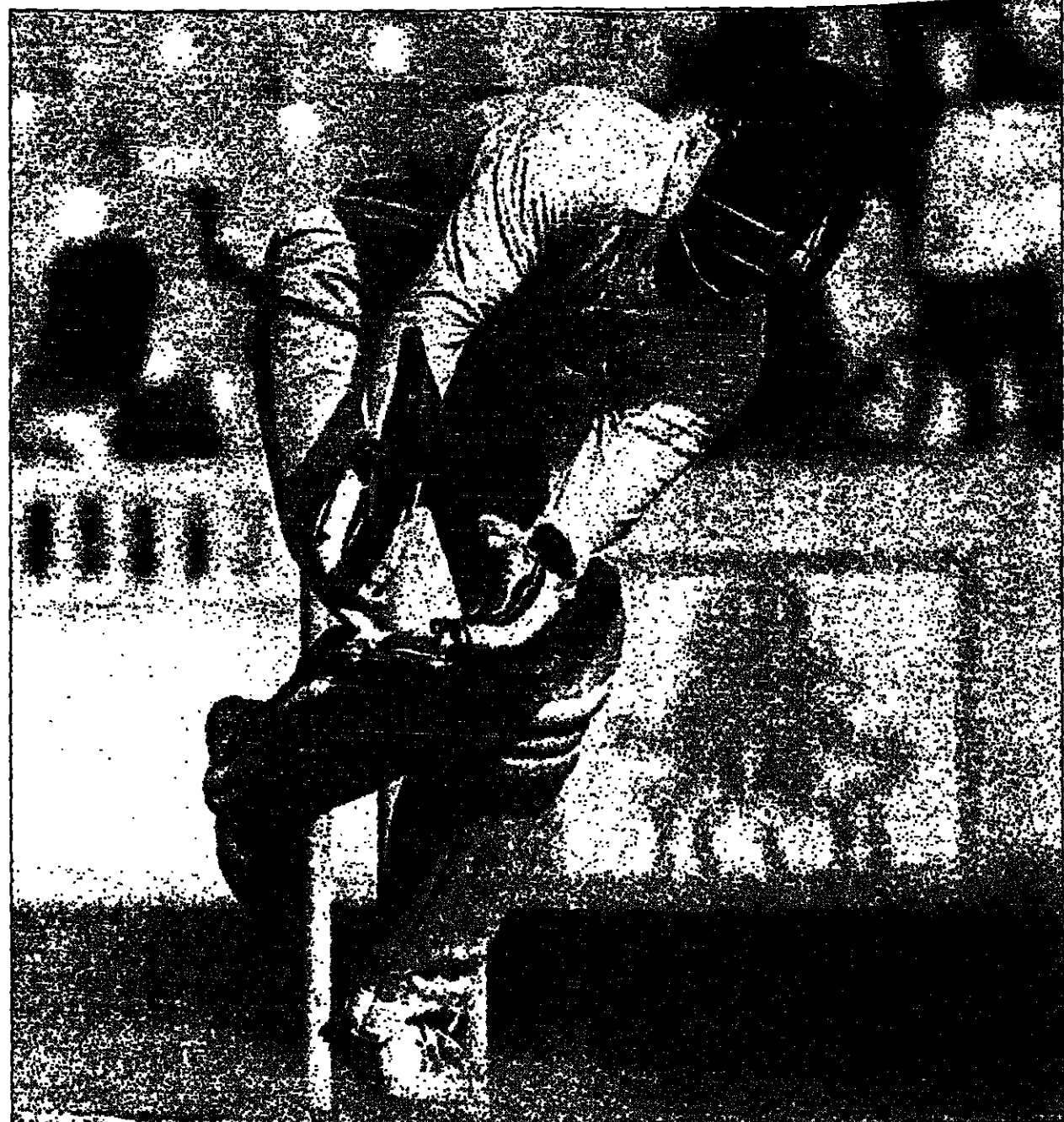
Together, Jayasuriya and Atapattu doubled the score in 32 overs after the first five wickets had gone for 140 runs. Apart from Kuruppu, leg-before when well forward to North, the main batsmen had all got a start without cashing in. Hathurusingha, who took 136 off Sussex for the Sri Lankan side that toured here a year ago, was run out this time, by Salisbury from cover point. Despite that, Sri Lanka's running between wickets

was keener, on the whole, than Sussex's fielding. Mahanama was caught at the wicket down the leg side and Tillekaratne gave the leg spinner, Salisbury, his only wicket when he missed an intended pull. With the captain, Aravinda de Silva, not playing, partly to arrest a damaged shoulder and partly to fit both Jayasuriya and Atapattu into the side, the Sri Lankans were beginning to look a little lost when these two repaid de Silva's faith.

With something not far removed from a slog, Jayasuriya, a left-hander, hit his first ball from Salisbury, for four, and was always looking for runs. Atapattu, more orthodox, looked full of promise. They can both bowl (Jayasuriya a slow orthodox left arm, Atapattu leg breaks), one is 21 and the other 20, and both must think that if Hove is always like this — flat, nicely-paced pitch, a beautiful outfield, a friendly, sizeable crowd and almost unbroken sunshine — it has to be the fairest place in all England. Jayasuriya's hundred took him 105 balls and included ten fours and four sixes.

The day badly needed a second spinner, both to back up Salisbury and to break up the endless round of faster stuff from the other end. Once the ball had lost its shine, they were the sort of conditions in which most medium-pace bowlers can bowl their hearts out for little reward. Jones, quicker and bolder than the others, surprised Gurusinha with lift and had him caught at the wicket, and North, a sturdy 22-year-old from Chichester, took a couple of wickets. But where was Donegan, who has been taking wickets with his off breaks?

It will be a pity, I think, if the Sri Lankans play only one spinner at Lord's this week, as there is talk of their doing. Just because they play spin so nicely and well themselves, it does not mean that England do. They are going to be very hard pressed, obviously, to dismiss England twice, or the pitch is too thickly grassed, they would have a better chance of doing it with spin well bowled than with seam for the sake of it. The game would almost certainly be more interesting for it too.



Fancy footwork: Thorpe, the Surrey left-hander, takes evasive action from Wasim Akram during his unbeaten century against Lancashire at Old Trafford in the Sunday league yesterday. Report, page 34

## Evans equal to a tense finale

By PETER BALL

SCARBOROUGH (Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire (40) beat Yorkshire by two wickets

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE went to the top of the Sunday league in thrilling fashion yesterday, just holding off a spirited Yorkshire challenge to win a splendid match before another packed house at Scarborough with one ball to spare. The result means that the Refuge Assurance League will be decided on the last day.

Such an outcome had seemed unlikely as Nottinghamshire's

early batting collapsed, with Broad, Randall and Johnson in the pavilion with only 32 on the board. Robinson began the recovery, but the decisive parts were played by the two relatively unused left-handers, Polard and Saxelby.

Coming together with Nottinghamshire at 70 for four, with 22 overs gone, as Batty and

Saxelby then carved Pickles by Byas at deep extra-cover. Polard chipped the first ball of the 38th over to mid-on and as Saxelby stepped in to hit, Robinson changed things after only 40 runs had come in 14 overs. Field-Buss revealed it was going to be a good day for spinners.

Kellert, who was lucky to survive a slower ball from Stephenson, was less fortunate when, calling for a quick single to Randall, he was run out by a direct throw.

For Evans, the 47 runs he conceded took him to 638 for the season's pace, but most of his consolation was the bat.

## Cook takes batting honours

THE Refuge Assurance League match at Worcester yesterday was not so much about Worcestershire playing Somerset as Tom Moody taking on Jimmy Cook (Ivo Tennant writes). As befitting two of the most successful batsmen in the country, they scored heavily in their contrasting styles. The South African made an unbeaten century as opposed to the Australian's innings of 91, which was the crux of the matter. Somerset won.

Worcestershire, who were seeking a place in the cup semi-finals, needed to make 236 to win. They fell 18 runs short after a fusillade of shots from the two

overseas batsmen that would have been worth anyone's admission money. On that subject, there was a crowd of 7,000 at Colchester to see Essex beat Middlesex.

Middlesex were thrashed by 95 runs, with only Ramprakash putting up much resistance. He made 59 from 75 balls and with Brown, who made 33, put on 69 in 15 overs for the fourth wicket. Earlier, Gooch and Stephenson had put on 96 in 18 overs before

Derbyshire, who won the league last year, ensured they would not finish bottom. A century for Gooch, who made 52, with Davis, who struck an unbeaten 40. Kent could muster only four runs off this over.

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### Refuge Assurance League

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### Hants v Leics

BOURNEMOUTH (Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire (40) beat Hampshire by four wickets

LEICESTERSHIRE won the toss and set Hampshire a target of 100 runs. Hampshire were bowled out for 40 runs in 17 overs. Leicestershire won by four wickets.

### Derby v Glamorgan

DERBY (Glamorgan won toss): Derbyshire (40) beat Glamorgan by two wickets

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### Essex v Middlesex

COLCHESTER (Essex won toss): Essex (40) beat Middlesex by 10 runs

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### York v Notts

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